



HB1547 ENVIRONMENT - SYNTHETIC TURF AND TURF INFILL - PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

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ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1547 Environment - Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Producer Responsibility**. This bill establishes restrictions on the sale, distribution, importation, or offering for promotional purposes of “synthetic turf” and “turf infill” in the State unless the producer of the turf or turf infill submits to and has a “stewardship plan” approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The bill establishes requirements for MDE and restrictions on the reuse and disposal of synthetic turf and turf infill. The bill also establishes requirements for tracking the chain of custody of synthetic turf and turf infill. Finally, the bill establishes immunity from liability for participants.

AACPS has concerns with §9-2304 of this bill, which restricts the reuse and disposal of synthetic turf and turf infill. This provision will increase our costs on turf fields and future budgets during replacements of these fields. AACPS currently uses recycled infill on replacement fields. We have a long-standing partnership and agreement with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks to collaboratively install, maintain, and schedule synthetic turf fields at AACPS high schools. Section 9-2304, as drafted, could seriously jeopardize this partnership and decrease access to and playtime on fields throughout Anne Arundel County.

While it is difficult to quantify, we estimate that this legislation could cost AACPS \$3 million per year if existing synthetic fields would need to be converted back to irrigated grass fields.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1547.