



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY  
PARK & RECREATION ADMINISTRATORS  
(MACPRA)

**HB299 - Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody**

*Requiring the Department of the Environment to establish a system to track the chain of custody of synthetic turf installed on sports and playing fields in the State; requiring the custodian of a synthetic turf sports or playing field installed in the State to report chain of custody information to the Department beginning January 1, 2024; and requiring the Department to serve as the custodian for chain of custody information and develop and maintain a website that includes chain of custody information.*

February 13, 2023

**MACPRA Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

As a professional association of agencies responsible for providing safe facilities and activities for Maryland residents, MACPRA supports the general purpose of HB299 establishing a statewide inventory of synthetic turf fields through a chain of custody system. MACPRA promotes the safe use, re-use, and/or disposal of synthetic turf materials and a statewide inventory could assist in this effort.

MACPRA does have concern that language included in the bill, with specific reference to turf infill materials, weight requirements, and specific oversight requirements require more clarification. Rubber infill material found on athletic fields tends to migrate, particularly in heavy-use areas. Jurisdictions with current synthetic turf facilities may not have information on weight of products upon installation that has already occurred as well.

We appreciate the opportunity that we had to speak with Delegate Lehman regarding these concerns and support the addition of these amendments into the bill.

1. Pg 4, Line 11, Before "The" insert "To the Extent Practicable"
2. Pg 4, Line 17, Before "Any" insert "Within Reason and related to the chain of custody for synthetic turf"
3. Pg 4, after line 20 insert, "(E) The General Assembly recognizes that there may be variations in the recorded weight of turf infill at installation and removal. Nothing in this section should be interpreted to penalize a custodian should the reported weight totals vary.

*The Maryland Association of County Park & Recreation Administrators (MACPRA) is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties and represents County Parks and Recreation departments, including Baltimore City – the professionals engaged in the delivery of Parks and Recreation services throughout Maryland.*