



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 0457 Environment – Synthetic Turf – Chain of Custody

Position: Support

Date: March 20, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Brian J. Feldman and Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) has voted to support this Bill. The Commission respectfully requests that the Education, Energy and Environment committee consider this information and include it in the record.

What The Bill Does: This bill seeks to establish a system to track the chain of custody of synthetic turf installed on sports and playing fields in Maryland. It will determine where turf playing fields are in the ground and where they go whenever they are moved.

Support Transparency and Accountability: The Commission is responsible for managing 10 existing synthetic turf fields serving the everyday needs of thousands of active families in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties.

In this context, the managers of our park and recreation operations anticipate an ongoing process of adding new fields and restoring old ones to keep up with a growing community demand. At the same time, our agency leaders recognize competing community concerns exist about the long-term environmental impact when synthetic materials enter the disposal or recycling streams. As an agency founded in part to pursue environmental stewardship, the Commission supports responsible reuse and disposal of turf materials with a focus on ensuring recycling. This legislation would establish transparency and public accountability by mandating disclosure to the Department of Environment, coupled with appropriate fines for field owners who fail to disclose their disposal

activities. Our team plans to achieve compliance by modifying our current procurement process to require the necessary information regarding disposal practices and reporting required by this bill.

The Commission fully supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB 0457.