

# SENATE BILL 886

M1, O4

4lr2832

---

By: **Senator Folden**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State and Local Parks – Playgrounds – Safety Standards**  
3 **(Our Kids Play Safe Playground Safety Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each unit of State or local government responsible for the  
5 construction and maintenance of a playground to ensure that the playground is  
6 constructed and maintained in accordance with certain safety standards; requiring  
7 a unit of State or local government to inspect a certain playground to evaluate  
8 compliance with certain safety standards and to keep an inspection record in a  
9 certain manner; and generally relating to safety standards for playgrounds.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Natural Resources

12 Section 5–2101 and 5–2102 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 21. Playground  
13 Safety”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Natural Resources**

19 **SUBTITLE 21. PLAYGROUND SAFETY.**

20 **5–2101.**

21 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PLAYGROUND” MEANS A PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION**  
22 **AREA FOR CHILDREN EQUIPPED WITH ONE OR MORE PLAY STRUCTURES.**

23 **5–2102.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) EACH UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE**  
2 **CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A PLAYGROUND SHALL ENSURE THAT THE**  
3 **PLAYGROUND IS CONSTRUCTED AND MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MOST**  
4 **RECENT PUBLICATION OF:**

5                   **(1) THE PUBLIC PLAYGROUND SAFETY HANDBOOK, PUBLISHED BY**  
6 **THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION;**

7                   **(2) THE STANDARD CONSUMER SAFETY PERFORMANCE**  
8 **SPECIFICATION FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR PUBLIC USE, PUBLISHED BY**  
9 **THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE; AND**

10                   **(3) THE STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR IMPACT ATTENUATION OF**  
11 **SURFACING MATERIALS WITHIN THE USE ZONE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT,**  
12 **PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE.**

13           **(B) AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS, EACH UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL**  
14 **GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR A PLAYGROUND SHALL INSPECT THE**  
15 **PLAYGROUND TO EVALUATE COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

16           **(C) AFTER COMPLETION OF EACH INSPECTION CONDUCTED IN**  
17 **ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL**  
18 **GOVERNMENT SHALL KEEP AN INSPECTION RECORD, INCLUDING A WRITTEN PLAN**  
19 **TO ADDRESS ANY SAFETY HAZARDS DISCOVERED DURING THE INSPECTION.**

20           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2024.