

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 457

(Delegate Lehman, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment - Synthetic Turf - Disclosure and Study

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in consultation with the Synthetic Turf Council and other specified stakeholders, including local governments, county school systems, and higher education facilities, to conduct a study on synthetic turf, existing synthetic turf fields in the State, and the synthetic turf industry in the State. MDE must submit a report of its findings to specified committees of the General Assembly by July 1, 2026. The bill also requires a producer or seller of synthetic turf to disclose the following information to the customer before the sale of synthetic turf: (1) the maintenance that is typically performed throughout the lifespan of synthetic turf; and (2) the typical cost for removing, replacing, and disposing of synthetic turf.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$59,400 in FY 2025 and by \$63,900 in FY 2026; future years reflect termination of contractual staff at the end of FY 2026. State revenues are not affected. It is assumed that any public higher education facilities that consult with MDE on the study can do so with existing budgeted resources.

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	59,400	63,900	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$59,400)	(\$63,900)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: It is assumed that any local entities that consult with MDE on the study can do so within existing budgeted resources. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: When conducting the study, MDE must consult with the Synthetic Turf Council, and other representatives of the synthetic turf industry, local environmental and community stakeholders, and synthetic turf producers, retailers, and users, including local governments, county school systems, higher education facilities, and professional sports organizations.

The required report must include (1) industry information and background; (2) methodologies used for data collection, including public hearings and other public outreach; (3) current industry practices and guidelines relating to the sale, maintenance, reuse, and disposal of synthetic turf; (4) current industry disposal methods of synthetic turf, including known disposal locations; (5) proper and improper disposal methods of synthetic turf; (6) current recycling rates and methods of synthetic turf and future recycling proposals; (7) factors influencing disposal and recycling; (8) case studies and examples; and (9) proposals for improving recycling rates and waste management.

Current Law: Current law does not specifically address synthetic turf or turf infill. The solid waste infrastructure in Maryland consists of both permitted and nonpermitted facilities, and solid waste is managed through a combination of recycling, composting, landfilling, energy recovery, and exporting for disposal or recycling. Privately and county-owned facilities make up the majority of facilities in the State.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for MDE increase by \$59,448 in fiscal 2025, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2024 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one contractual environmental compliance specialist to coordinate and conduct the required study and complete the required report. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Contractual Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$45,617
Operating Expenses	<u>13,831</u>
Total FY 2025 MDE Expenditures	\$59,448

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Future year expenditures reflect termination of the contractual employee at the end of fiscal 2026 after the study is complete and the report has been submitted.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Caroline and Prince George’s counties; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority; cities of Annapolis and Takoma Park; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary’s College of Maryland; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of General Services; Department of Natural Resources; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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