Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 321 (Delegate Lehman)
Environment and Transportation Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment - Synthetic Turf Industry and Disposal Study - Deadline Extension

This bill extends the deadline, from July 1, 2026, to January 15, 2027, by which the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must submit a specified report relating to synthetic turf to specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Extending the deadline for MDE to submit the required report does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 567 of 2024 required 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 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.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, and Somerset counties; City of Frederick; Maryland Municipal League; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Maryland Department of the Environment; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2026
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