



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION ADMINISTRATORS
(MACPRA)

**2021 MD General Assembly
House Bill 472**

Prohibiting a person from using glyphosate in the State on or after October 1, 2022.

Maryland Association of County Park &
Recreation Administrators

TO: Environment and Transportation

Date: January 26, 2021

FROM: Steve Miller, MACPRA President

Position: **OPPOSE**

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.

On behalf of association members, **MACPRA OPPOSES HB 472.**

The use of glyphosate, often found in products such as Roundup, can be an important tool for Parks and Recreation agencies to deal with noxious weeds, non-native invasive plants, and other unwanted weeds that make it challenging to provide safe, functional and attractive facilities for residents and visitors alike.

Recent studies conducted by the EPA, National Institute of Health and the FDA concluded that glyphosate-based products are not likely to be carcinogenic to humans and pose a low threat of toxicity for people. While alternative products do exist, imposing a 100% ban on glyphosate-based products would cause a financial burden (25% or more on product costs alone) to many jurisdictions who rely on its use as a safe and efficient method of weed control.



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Additionally, many jurisdictions have imposed their own local legislation or operational controls that govern the use of glyphosate in public facilities. Since conditions vary across the State, MACPRA believes that such legislation and operational decisions should remain at a local level.

Lastly, MACPRA would encourage its agency members to utilize best practices whenever glyphosate is used, particularly in public places that attract humans or pets. These practices may include limiting usage where possible, training staff members in proper PPE and application techniques, and following EPA and County laws for regulations including public notification, among other best practices.

MACPRA would also encourage its members to explore alternative products and utilize those where practical and affordable.

The 100% ban of this product, however, is unnecessary legislation that would place an undue burden on many agencies who do not have the resources for alternative control measures. It would be better left to local jurisdictions to make these determinations based on their given situations.

We urge the Committee to consider the consequences of this proposed legislation and return an **UNFAVORABLE** report.