



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 857 - Environment - Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody and Reuse

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 857, entitled *Environment - Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody and Reuse* and would like to provide additional information regarding the bill. MDE has discussed this bill with the sponsor, and supports efforts that facilitate the proper management of post-consumer material as a means of preventing litter.

Beginning January 1, 2022, the bill would require a producer of synthetic turf and turf infill to establish a system to track the chain of custody of the synthetic turf and turf infill from their manufacture to their installation, use, reuse, recycling, and final disposal. The bill would also require owners of synthetic turf and turf infill installed in the State as of January 1, 2022 to establish a system to track the chain of custody of the synthetic turf and turf infill from their use to their reuse, recycling, and final disposal. The chain of custody is required to be transmitted in writing to MDE. MDE is required to review and approve requests from an owner of synthetic turf and turf infill to reuse the synthetic turf and turf infill. MDE is also required to develop and maintain a website that contains copies of chains of custody submitted to MDE, as well as the names of producers and brands associated with the chains of custody.

Synthetic turf is typically composed of plastic blades of grass and an infill material that can be made of various materials, including crumb rubber from recycled tires. Depending on the materials used, synthetic turf and infill would often constitute nonhazardous solid waste that could be managed similarly to other municipal wastes. Additionally, while MDE regulates and imposes certain requirements on the disposal and the recycling of scrap tires, crumb rubber and other products composed of recycled tires are not considered scrap tires. Used synthetic turf and turf infill that is nonhazardous solid waste may currently be reused, recycled, or properly disposed in a permitted solid waste facility.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 857 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott".

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Mary A. Lehman
Ms. Kaley Laleker, Director, Land and Materials Administration