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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB321: Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill - Chain of Custody**

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 2, 2022 | 1:30pm

In November of 2021, a [sports complex in Rockville](#) replaced its indoor field. Hundreds of pounds of worn-out plastic carpet and loose infill made from thousands of shredded tires were dumped in the parking lot, close to a storm drain. Additional debris was scattered throughout the nearby woods. **This is a problem.**

Turf fields have become popular for their reduced maintenance. What isn't highlighted when choosing this material is the harm to our environment and public health. This turf destroys wildlife habitat; contaminates our waterways; and spreads tire crumb rubber as the field is used. Unfortunately, we don't know how many of these fields exist and therefore can't measure the impact made on our environment.

[SB321](#) would require those handling synthetic turf to report its whereabouts throughout its lifecycle-- including [where and when it is disposed](#)-- to put a stop to illegal dumping. The Department of Environment (MDE) can maintain these records using existing resources. The burden on those who report is minimal-- a simple notification to MDE.

This bill only affects fields that are 15,000 square feet (e.g. the average soccer field) or larger. Those violating the reporting requirements would be subject to:

- A written warning for the first violation;
- A civil penalty of up to \$500 for the second; and
- A civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each subsequent violation.

Turf is illegally dumped around the state, as it recently was in Rockville. It's our obligation to track the whereabouts of these synthetic materials in order to protect public health and the environment.

**I urge a favorable report on SB321.**