



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 28, 2024

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 1147 – Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League respectfully opposes House Bill 1147. In its current version, HB 1147 would prohibit local governments from using playground ground surface materials that contain PAH, PFAS, or lead after October 1, 2024. Municipalities with playgrounds currently using these materials would be required to tear out the entire playground surface and replace it in a few short months, after fiscal year budgets have been set. While the League is confident most municipally owned and operated playgrounds do not contain these hazardous materials, compliance for impacted municipalities would be challenging and expensive.

However, based on recent conversations with the Sponsor, it's our understanding that this bill was not intended to be retroactive or force local governments to rip up current playground surfaces. With amendments addressing these concerns, the League would withdraw its opposition to HB 1147.

For these reasons, MML is opposed to HB 1147 but looks forward to continued conversations with the Sponsor and our local government partners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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