



Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: *House Bill 321: Environment - Synthetic Turf Industry and Disposal Study - Deadline Extension - SUPPORT*

March 24, 2026

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association (MASFMA) and the Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC), we write this letter of information pertaining to the introduction of House Bill 321; entitled: *Environment - Synthetic Turf Industry and Disposal Study - Deadline Extension*.

MTC represents all areas of the turf industry including golf, sports turf, sod producers, landscape, lawncare and commercial vendors and suppliers. The Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association (MASFMA) is a non-profit organization that is composed of sports turf field managers and workers from Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., and Northern Virginia. Once again, MASFMA has partnered with Maryland Turfgrass Council (MTC) this year to bring a more unified front from all aspects of our industry.

As written, House Bill 321, is merely amending the current law to extend the deadline by which the Department of the Environment is required to submit a report on the synthetic turf industry and synthetic turf disposal from July 1, 2026, to January 15, 2027.

Two years ago, MTC and MASFMA proudly supported the successful enactment of House Bill 457 which required the Maryland Department of the Environment (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.

Over the last 18 months, MTC and MASFMA have assisted MDE's research to fulfill the legislative reporting mandates that will 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.

Currently, there are no state laws in Maryland to specifically address synthetic turf or turf infill. Moreover, to MTC and MASFMA's knowledge no other state in the nation has legislated a State-issued report on this issue. The composition of artificial turf is complex, making it challenging and costly to recycle. Even now, with consumers demanding more sustainable options, turf manufacturers and

companies are still seeking efforts, through new and emerging technologies, to recycle or repurpose these shell-life materials. And while some states and cities have taken action on banning new installation of synthetic turf, it does not resolve the issue of existing synthetic turf at our schools and parks that are quickly nearing their 10-year life cycles.

If Maryland truly wants to combat this issue and set forth standards that could be adopted nationwide, we can't risk this report (and the ongoing collaboration and analysis between the State and industry) to be incomplete or rushed due to a legislative deadline.

It is for these reasons, MTC and MASFMA firmly supports the passage of HB321 and humbly seeks this committee for a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,



Clint Steele
President, MASFMA



Logan Freeman
President. MTC