



House Bill 1142

Environment – Hazardous Materials – Disposal of Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 1, 2019

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1142. The bill would impose unreasonable and costly requirements on the disposal of synthetic turf and turf infill.

HB 1142 would require synthetic turf and turf infill to only be disposed in a controlled hazardous substance facility or a closed loop recycling facility (closed loop recycling is a process by which resources from a discarded product are reused to make the same product). The bill also requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish a chain of custody tracking system from the manufacture of the turf or turf infill to its disposal.

The bill makes no sense from a recycling or cost perspective. Currently, there are no controlled hazardous substance facilities in Maryland, and it is questionable whether there are any closed loop recycling facilities in the state capable of meeting the bill's requirements. This will significantly increase disposal/recycling costs for those local governments that use synthetic turf.

Additionally, the materials in synthetic turf—including plastic and rubber—are found in numerous other materials that are not subject to such restrictive treatment. The bill would create a major inconsistency in Maryland's current recycling and solid waste disposal programs.

Finally, the bill limits other potential uses for synthetic turf and turf infill to be reused directly or recycled into other useful products using cheaper or more efficient recycling methods.

HB 1142 would impose inconsistent, costly, and unnecessary requirements on the disposal and recycling of synthetic turf and turf infill. Accordingly, MACo requests the Committee give the bill an **UNFAVORABLE** report.