

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1262 (Delegate A. Miller, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Synthetic Infill Turf Fields - Informational Signs

This bill requires the owner or operator of a facility with a synthetic infill turf field to post a sign – in a conspicuous location and visible to users of the field – stating specified safety recommendations of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in expenditures for any State agencies that own or operate a synthetic infill turf field and must acquire and post the required signage.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in expenditures for any local governments that own or operate a synthetic infill turf field and must acquire and post the required signage. Enforcement can be handled with existing budgeted resources, assuming it is complaint-based only.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The required sign must state the following:

“The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene encourages all those using synthetic infill turf fields to observe the following recommendations:

1. Wash hands and exposed body parts aggressively after playing on field.

2. Turn clothes inside out as soon as possible after using the field to avoid tracking dust and infill to other locations.
3. Keep beverages closed and in bags or coolers when not drinking to minimize contamination from field dust and fibers.
4. Be aware of signs of heat-related illness and dehydration. Fields can get excessively hot on warm, sunny days. Take all necessary precautions.”

Current Law: Current law does not require the posting of any safety recommendations specific to synthetic infill turf fields.

Background: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), testing has revealed potentially unhealthy levels of lead dust in some artificial turf playing fields. CDC advises that the risk for harmful lead exposure is low from new fields with elevated lead levels in their turf fibers because the fibers are still intact; however, as the turf ages and weathers, lead is released in dust and the risk for harmful exposure increases.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Baltimore, Dorchester, Garrett, Howard, and Montgomery counties; Department of Natural Resources; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Department of Legislative Services

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mlm/ljm

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