

# HOUSE BILL 505

P2

8lr2134  
CF 8lr0904

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By: **Delegates A. Miller, Barkley, Carr, Dumais, Fraser-Hidalgo, Gutierrez, Kelly, Korman, Morhaim, Platt, Robinson, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2018

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Use of Public Funds – Playground and Athletic Field Surfaces – Preferences and**  
3 **Prohibitions**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a preference for the use of certain natural surface  
5 materials in certain projects to construct playgrounds or athletic fields; prohibiting  
6 the use of State funds to finance any portion of a project to build a new, or replace  
7 an existing, playground or athletic field with a synthetic surface; defining a certain  
8 term; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to playground  
9 and athletic field surfaces.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – State Finance and Procurement

12 Section 14-417

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

18 **14-417.**

19 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “SYNTHETIC SURFACE” MEANS ANY ARTIFICIAL**  
20 **SURFACE MATERIAL USED IN A PLAYGROUND OR AN ATHLETIC FIELD.**

21 **(2) “SYNTHETIC SURFACE” INCLUDES:**

22 **(I) ARTIFICIAL TURF; AND**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **(II) ANY GROUND COVER MADE FROM PLASTIC, RUBBER, OR**  
2 **TIRES.**

3           **(B) A STATE OR LOCAL UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF**  
4 **PLAYGROUNDS OR ATHLETIC FIELDS, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE,**  
5 **SHALL GIVE CONSIDERATION AND PREFERENCE TO THE USE OF STATE-OF-THE-ART**  
6 **NATURAL SURFACE MATERIALS IN ANY PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT A PLAYGROUND OR**  
7 **AN ATHLETIC FIELD THAT IS TO BE PAID FOR WITH PUBLIC FUNDS.**

8           **(C) (1) STATE FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED TO FINANCE ANY PORTION OF A**  
9 **PROJECT TO BUILD A NEW, OR REPLACE AN EXISTING, PLAYGROUND OR ATHLETIC**  
10 **FIELD WITH A SYNTHETIC SURFACE.**

11                   **(2) THE PROHIBITION IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**  
12 **APPLIES TO ALL PROJECT PHASES, INCLUDING BASE FOUNDATION CONSTRUCTION.**

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
14 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
15 application to any project for which funds have been allocated before the effective date of  
16 this Act.

17           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
18 1, 2018.