



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION ADMINISTRATORS
(MACPRA)

**2022 MD General Assembly
House Bill 131**

Establishing a chain-of-custody reporting requirement for synthetic turf fields in Maryland.

To: Environment and Transportation

Date: January 17, 2022

Position: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

As a professional association of agencies responsible for providing safe facilities and activities for Maryland residents, MACPRA supports the general purpose of HB 131 establishing a statewide inventory of synthetic turf fields through a chain of custody system. MACPRA promotes the safe use, re-use, and/or disposal of synthetic turf materials and a statewide inventory could assist in this effort.

MACPRA does have concern that language included in the bill, with specific reference to turf infill materials, requires more clarification. Rubber infill material found on athletic fields tends to migrate, particularly in heavy-use areas. As a result, regular maintenance is required which often includes adding or moving infill materials.

As written, the bill does not acknowledge this reality nor provide clear direction as to what extent “chain of custody” might be required to perform these types of critical maintenance and safety functions. Depending on how this is applied, the legislation could become impractical and burdensome on turf owners and operators.

The Maryland Association of County Park & Recreation Administrators (MACPRA) is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties and represents County Parks and Recreation departments, including Baltimore City – the professionals engaged in the delivery of Parks and Recreation services throughout Maryland.