HOUSE BILL 505

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

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY adding to
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 14–417
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – State Finance and Procurement

14–417.

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

(2) “SYNTHETIC SURFACE” INCLUDES:

(i) ARTIFICIAL TURF; AND

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(II) ANY GROUND COVER MADE FROM PLASTIC, RUBBER, OR TIRES.

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

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

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

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

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