

SENATE, No. 3783

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 10, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator RAJ MUKHERJI

District 32 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits municipalities, school districts, and State departments and agencies from purchasing, installing, or using artificial turf.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2024)

1 AN ACT prohibiting the use of artificial turf and supplementing
2 Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Synthetic turf infill is made of small, rubberized pellets
9 typically made from used tires which contain a myriad of chemicals
10 known to be harmful to humans, including carcinogens,
11 neurotoxicants, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

12 b. A regular sized synthetic turf field contains 500,000 pounds
13 of plastic, which breaks down into microplastics and nanoplastics
14 that are subsequently incorporated in runoff that flows into streams
15 during heavy rains, causing environmental contamination, harm to
16 aquatic life, and a disruption of the State's delicate ecosystem.

17 c. Recent studies suggest that exposure to microplastics and
18 nanoplastics can cause negative health effects in humans, including,
19 but not limited to, oxidative stress, inflammation, immune
20 dysfunction, altered biochemical and energy metabolism, impaired
21 cell proliferation, disrupted microbial metabolic pathways,
22 abnormal organ development, and carcinogenicity.

23 d. To date, all studies of installed synthetic turf have found the
24 presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS),
25 nicknamed "forever chemicals" because they accumulate, rather
26 than break down, over time, and build up in the human body.

27 e. Recent studies suggest that exposure to PFAS, and the
28 resulting accumulation of PFAS in the human body, may be linked
29 to many health issues, including, but not limited to, decreased
30 fertility in women, developmental delays in children, increased risk
31 of certain cancers, reduced immune system response, thyroid
32 disease, and kidney and liver damage.

33 f. When exposed to direct sunlight, a synthetic turf field's
34 surface temperature can reach up to 72 degrees hotter than natural
35 grass, increasing the surrounding air temperature and placing
36 athletes at risk of dehydration, heat stress, burns, and heatstroke. In
37 addition, the rough surface of synthetic turf can cause abrasions,
38 known as turf burn.

39 g. Natural grass is free of the health and environmental hazards
40 associated with synthetic turf, and organic maintenance practices,
41 including frequent aeration and mowing, soil testing, and use of
42 organic fertilizers, can further mitigate environmental and health
43 risks by eliminating the need for toxic pesticides.

44 h. While synthetic turf is often touted as cost-effective, low-
45 maintenance, and water-saving, the environmental, health, and
46 safety risks greatly outweigh the intended benefits, and
47 municipalities, school districts, or State departments or agencies
48 should instead invest in safe, non-toxic, natural grass playing fields.

1 2. No municipality, school district, or State department or
2 agency, shall enter into a contract for the purchase, use, or
3 installation of artificial turf for a new or existing field. Artificial
4 turf fields that have been already installed may remain in use, but
5 shall not be replaced with artificial turf.

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7 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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12 This bill would prohibit the purchase, installation, or use of
13 artificial turf by a municipality, school district, or State department
14 or agency for a new or existing field. This bill permits the
15 continued use of artificial turf fields that have been already
16 installed. Synthetic turf contains a myriad of chemicals known to
17 be harmful to humans, including carcinogens, neurotoxicants, and
18 endocrine-disrupting chemicals, as well as microplastics,
19 nanoplastics, and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
20 Natural grass is free of the health and environmental hazards
21 associated with synthetic turf. While synthetic turf is often touted
22 as cost-effective, low-maintenance, and water-saving, the
23 environmental, health, and safety risks greatly outweigh the
24 intended benefits.