

ASSEMBLY, No. 2512

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN E. ROONEY

District 39 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vandervalk

SYNOPSIS

Establishes moratorium on the installation of synthetic turf pending a comprehensive public health study.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2008)

A2512 ROONEY

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1 AN ACT establishing a moratorium on the installation of synthetic
2 turf pending a comprehensive public health study, and
3 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. Increasingly, synthetic turf is being installed in many locations
10 in New Jersey, including parks, athletic fields and other settings
11 where natural grass was previously grown. In recent years, crumb
12 rubber fill is being used as a component of synthetic turf and mulch.
13 Crumb rubber is the result of processing waste tires, which contain
14 numerous components, some of which are known to be hazardous to
15 people and the environment;

16 b. The hazardous components include arsenic, cadmium,
17 chromium, lead, vanadium, zinc and acetone. Health effects
18 associated with these components, at dangerous levels, include birth
19 defects, cancer, nervous system damage and immune system
20 suppression; and

21 c. While various options for waste tire use are essential to
22 reducing the significant stockpiles of waste tires, such uses should
23 not threaten or compromise public health.

24 The Legislature further finds and declares that more information
25 is necessary to make an informed decision on the appropriate uses
26 of synthetic turf containing crumb rubber. In the interest of
27 preventing adverse health impacts and contamination to natural
28 resources, a comprehensive public health study on the potential
29 threats associated with the use of synthetic turf is warranted.

30 The Legislature therefore determines that it is consistent with
31 public policy to require that a comprehensive public health study be
32 undertaken immediately; and, in the meantime, to temporarily
33 suspend the installation and use of synthetic turf products that
34 contain crumb rubber.

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36 2. For the purposes of this act:

37 "Crumb rubber" means ground rubber derived from waste tires,
38 which contain one or more of the following ingredients: arsenic,
39 cadmium, chromium, lead vanadium, zinc, and acetone.

40 "Synthetic turf" means any materials or compositions that
41 include crumb rubber as a component used in place of grass to
42 surface parks, outdoor playing or athletic fields, indoor athletic
43 facilities or other venues.

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45 3. There is hereby established a moratorium on the sale and
46 installation of synthetic turf for a period of 180 days from the
47 effective date of this act or until the Department of Health and

1 Senior Services reports to the Governor and the Legislature on its
2 findings and recommendations as required in section 4 of this act.

3 4. a. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in
4 cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, shall
5 immediately undertake a review of all available data relating to the
6 potential health risks and effects of synthetic turf, with particular
7 attention to the crumb rubber content of the synthetic turf.

8 b. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall:

9 (1) Solicit input from environmental and public health
10 specialists, and other stakeholders in an open, public process;

11 (2) Examine various routes of exposure and the health and
12 environmental impact of these pathways including, but not limited
13 to, small fill particle inhalation, volatility, leaching to groundwater,
14 dermal absorption, and persistence in the environment of original
15 and degradation by-products;

16 (3) Prepare a report to the Governor and the Legislature which
17 includes research and studies conducted on synthetic turf which
18 were the source of the report findings and recommendations for
19 appropriate and inappropriate use of synthetic turf, crumb rubber
20 and waste tires. The report shall be filed within six months of the
21 effective date of this act, unless the Commissioner of Health and
22 Senior Services requests, in writing, an extension of time; and

23 (4) Conduct an outreach program to inform local governments,
24 private organizations, schools and the public regarding the findings
25 of the report. If necessary, information on safe alternatives to
26 synthetic turf in settings where this material is a potential or actual
27 health risk should be disseminated to the public.

28 c. All other departments or agencies of the State or subdivisions
29 thereof, and local governments shall, at the request of the
30 Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, provide expertise,
31 assistance, and data that will enable the commissioner to carry out
32 the provisions of this act.

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34 5. The provisions of any other law, or any rule or regulation
35 adopted pursuant thereto, to the contrary notwithstanding, a site-
36 specific environmental impact statement shall be prepared for any
37 action that includes the use of synthetic turf. The environmental
38 impact statement shall include the potential public health risks from
39 exposure to synthetic turf and maintenance products, health risks
40 from exposure to synthetic turf and maintenance products, including
41 inhalation impact, volatility impacts, and impact of hazardous levels
42 of constituents of synthetic turf. Environmental impacts shall be
43 assessed, including migration of chemicals from the synthetic turf
44 into air, water and soil. The environmental impact statement shall
45 meet the requirements of the most detailed environmental impact
46 statement required by law.

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