

2026 -- H 7141

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LC003978

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

**RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Introduced By: Representatives Boylan, Cortvriend, Speakman, Fogarty, McGaw, Kislak, Carson, Bennett, Spears, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 **SECTION 1. Purpose and findings.**

2 The purpose of this act is to require: (1) The department of environment management
3 ("department") to establish a system to track the chain of custody of artificial turf installed on sports
4 and playing fields in the state; (2) The custodian of artificial turf sports or playing field installed in
5 the state to report chain of custody information to the department on or before a certain date or
6 within a certain amount of time after the completion of the installation, whichever is later; (3) The
7 new custodian of artificial turf that was removed after the chain of custody information was
8 reported to the department under this act to report updated chain of custody information to the
9 department; (4) The department to serve as the custodian for chain of custody information
10 submitted under this act and develop and maintain a website that includes certain chain of custody
11 information.

12 **SECTION 2. Chapter 42-17.2 of the General Laws entitled "Ski Tramways" is hereby
13 amended by adding thereto the following section:**

14 **42-17.2-47. Environment -- Artificial turf -- Chain of custody.**

15 **(a) Definitions. When used in this section, the following terms shall have the following
16 meanings:**

17 **(1) "Artificial turf" has the same meaning as defined in § 23-18.18-3 and that:**

18 **(i) Is intended to have, or incidentally has, an appearance that mimics grass;**

(6) The date the artificial turf was installed;

(7) The distance to and name of the nearest down gradient surface body of water; and

(8) Any other information required by the department.

(d)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d)(2) of this section, if the artificial turf is removed after the chain of custody information is reported to the department under subsection (b) of this section, the new custodian of the artificial turf shall report to the department:

(i) The new geographic location and street address of the artificial turf;

(ii) The name, address, and contact information of:

(A) The transporter of the artificial turf; and

(B) The new custodian of the artificial turf;

(iii) The area of the artificial turf in square feet;

(iv) To the extent practicable, the weight of the artificial turf;

(v) How the artificial turf is used at the new location, including whether the artificial turf is recycled, processed for final disposal, or used to refurbish or replace a sports or playing field;

(vi) If the artificial turf is installed at a sports or playing field, the date of installation; and

(vii) Any other information reasonably related to the chain of custody of artificial turf, as required by the department.

(2) A new custodian of artificial turf that transports the artificial turf for use or disposal out-of-state shall report to the department the information required under subsections (d)(1)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vii) of this section.

(e) Chain of custody information shall be:

(1) Reported in writing to the department; and

(2) In a form required by the department.

(f) A custodian shall not be penalized for variation in the weight totals reported under subsection (d) of this section.

(g) The department shall:

(1) Serve as the repository for the chain of custody information submitted under this section; and

(2) Maintain the chain of custody information permanently; and

(3) Develop and maintain a publicly accessible website on or before July 1, 2028, that includes:

(i) The chain of custody information submitted to the department under this section; and

(ii) The names and contact information of each custodian that provided the chain of custody information.

1 (h)(1) With regard to violations subject to subsection (c) of this section, a person that
2 violates the provisions of this section is subject to a civil penalty not exceeding five thousand dollars
3 (\$5,000).

4 (2) A penalty shall not be imposed under this section unless a person is first issued a written
5 notice of violation.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would require the producer of artificial turf and turf infill sold or distributed in
- 2 Rhode Island to report its chain of custody, from installation to use, repurposing, recycling and
- 3 disposal to the department of environmental management. The department of environmental
- 4 management would develop and maintain the information on a publicly accessible website.
- 5 Violations would be subject to civil penalties.

- 6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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