

2025 -- H 5340

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

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

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

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

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 42-17.1 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Environmental
13 Management" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

14 **42-17.1-46. 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;

- 1 (ii) Functions as a replacement for grass;
- 2 (iii) Has the primary purpose of being used as an indoor or outdoor sports or playing field;
- 3 (iv) Is at least five thousand square feet (5,000 ft²) in size; and
- 4 (v) Includes shock pads and turf infill.
- 5 (2) "Custodian" means a person who owns or is in control of artificial turf in the state or
- 6 any current or subsequent owner of a property on which there is existing artificial turf. Custodians
- 7 may also include those in control of charter schools, daycare centers, colleges and universities,
- 8 municipal athletic facilities, private athletic clubs, or other facilities where artificial turf is used.
- 9 (3) "Department" means the department of environmental management.
- 10 (4) "Producer" means a person who owns or licenses a trademark or brand under which
- 11 artificial turf is sold, offered for sale, distributed, or offered for promotional purposes in the state;
- 12 or imports artificial turf into the state for sale or distribution.
- 13 (5) "Turf infill" means a material that:
- 14 (i) Is poured on top of artificial turf to hold artificial turf blades in place;
- 15 (ii) Weighs down the artificial turf in order that it does not develop wrinkles or buckle;
- 16 (iii) Mimics the impact absorption properties of soil under natural grass; and
- 17 (iv) Includes shredded or granulated tire, rubber, silica sand, or other material that is used
- 18 as infill on artificial turf.
- 19 (b) The department shall establish a system to track the chain of custody of artificial turf
- 20 installed on sports and playing fields in the state, from the transportation, installation, and removal
- 21 of the artificial turf to its reuse, recycling, and final disposal.
- 22 (c) On or before January 1, 2026, or within thirty (30) days after the completion of the
- 23 installation, whichever is later, the custodian of artificial turf sports or playing field installed in the
- 24 state, including a replacement or brand new artificial turf sports or playing field, shall report to the
- 25 department the following information:
- 26 (1) The geographic location and street address of the installed artificial turf;
- 27 (2) The name, address, and contact information of:
- 28 (i) The custodian of the artificial turf;
- 29 (ii) The producer of the artificial turf; and
- 30 (iii) The business or contractor that installed the artificial turf;
- 31 (3) The type and brand of artificial turf installed, to include detailed information on the
- 32 composition of the infill and whether the turf is indoors or outdoors;
- 33 (4) The area of the artificial turf in square feet;
- 34 (5) The weight of the artificial turf;

1 (6) The date the artificial turf was installed;
2 (7) The distance to and name of the nearest down gradient surface body of water; and
3 (8) Any other information required by the department.
4 (d)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d)(2) of this section, if the artificial turf is removed
5 after the chain of custody information is reported to the department under subsection (b) of this
6 section, the new custodian of the artificial turf shall report to the department:
7 (i) The new geographic location and street address of the artificial turf;
8 (ii) The name, address, and contact information of:
9 (A) The transporter of the artificial turf; and
10 (B) The new custodian of the artificial turf;
11 (iii) The area of the artificial turf in square feet;
12 (iv) To the extent practicable, the weight of the artificial turf;
13 (v) How the artificial turf is used at the new location, including whether the artificial turf
14 is recycled, processed for final disposal, or used to refurbish or replace a sports or playing field;
15 (vi) If the artificial turf is installed at a sports or playing field, the date of installation; and
16 (vii) Any other information reasonably related to the chain of custody of artificial turf, as
17 required by the department.
18 (2) A new custodian of artificial turf that transports the artificial turf for use or disposal
19 out-of-state shall report to the department the information required under subsections (d)(1)(i), (ii),
20 (iii), (iv), and (vii) of this section.
21 (e) Chain of custody information shall be:
22 (1) Reported in writing to the department; and
23 (2) In a form required by the department.
24 (f) A custodian shall not be penalized for variation in the weight totals reported under
25 subsection (d) of this section.
26 (g) The department shall:
27 (1) Serve as the repository for the chain of custody information submitted under this
28 section; and
29 (2) Maintain the chain of custody information permanently; and
30 (3) Develop and maintain a publicly accessible website on or before July 1, 2027, that
31 includes:
32 (i) The chain of custody information submitted to the department under this section; and
33 (ii) The names and contact information of each custodian that provided the chain of custody
34 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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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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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