
SENATE BILL 6540

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, Benton, Frockt, Nelson, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Energy,
Environment & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring safe playgrounds and turf fields;
2 amending RCW 70.95.521, 70.95.530, and 28A.335.300; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; creating new sections; and providing
4 an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of ecology shall create
7 a playfield turf advisory group to provide advice to the department
8 on the design and scope of the study of the health impacts of
9 exposure to toxic chemicals in synthetic turf, required by section 2
10 of this act.

11 (2) The department of ecology must invite the participation of
12 the following on the advisory group and may include additional
13 participants:

- 14 (a) Administrators of school playground and playfields;
- 15 (b) Administrators of city, county, and private playgrounds and
16 playfields;
- 17 (c) Representatives of athletic associations whose participating
18 sports include playfield sports;
- 19 (d) Representatives of athlete associations and youth athlete
20 parent associations;

1 (e) Representatives of preschools and day care facilities with
2 outdoor playgrounds;

3 (f) State and local health departments, including a toxics expert
4 from the state department of health;

5 (g) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
6 the department of early learning;

7 (h) Manufacturers and installers of playground and playfield
8 surfaces;

9 (i) Nonprofit community health organizations; and

10 (j) Environmental toxicologists.

11 (3) The department of ecology must form the advisory group by
12 September 1, 2016. The group shall select its chair from among the
13 members of the group.

14 (4) The department of ecology shall provide the advisory group an
15 opportunity to provide comments on the proposed design of the study
16 required by section 2 of this act and to comment upon a draft of the
17 study before it is finalized. The advisory group may choose to
18 provide its comments upon the study to the legislative committees
19 concurrently with the submittal of the study to the legislature.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By June 30, 2017, the department of
21 ecology, in consultation with the department of health, shall provide
22 to the governor and the appropriate committees of the senate and
23 house of representatives a study analyzing the potential adverse
24 health impacts of synthetic turf.

25 (2) The study must include:

26 (a) A hazard analysis of repeated exposure to the chemicals that
27 may be found in synthetic turf, such as 4-t-octylphenol, acetone,
28 arsenic, barium, benzene, benzothiazole, butylated hydroxanisole,
29 cadmium, carbon black, chloethane, chromium, lead, manganese, matex,
30 mercury, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, n-hexadecane,
31 naphthalene, nickel, nylon, phenol, phthalates, polycyclic aromatic
32 hydrocarbons, and zinc;

33 (b) An analysis that considers the varying exposure activities,
34 environments, duration of play, ages of different populations who
35 play on synthetic turf, and exposure pathways, including whether
36 chemicals found in tires have negative impacts on human health when
37 used in indoor and outdoor fields and parks with various weather
38 exposures and potentially ingested by children or coming in contact
39 with children's bodies;

1 (c) Biomonitoring or other exposure monitoring of children and
2 adults exposed to synthetic turf in actual team competitive uses of
3 playfields to assess their exposure to chemicals found in the
4 synthetic turf, to the extent feasible, to determine potential health
5 impacts on children and other age groups;

6 (d) An examination of the potential for fields and playgrounds
7 containing synthetic turf to cause adverse health impacts including,
8 but not limited to, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, testicular cancer, prostate
9 cancer, sarcoma cancer, and leukemia. This examination must include
10 people who have developed these health impacts and played on fields
11 and playgrounds containing used tires including, but not limited to,
12 soccer goalies;

13 (e) An examination of the health impacts associated with
14 synthetic turf fields and playgrounds of varying age;

15 (f) An evaluation of the differences in the manufacturing of
16 synthetic turf and different turf, field, and playground products,
17 including those that do not use recycled tires, and how these
18 differences may affect health impacts. The evaluation must include,
19 but not be limited to, the types and age of tires used, the tire
20 processing, the type of plasticizer, backing material, adhesives, and
21 plastic blades of artificial grass used to make the final synthetic
22 turf product;

23 (g) An evaluation of the differences, in terms of health impacts,
24 between fields and playgrounds covered with synthetic turf and
25 nonsynthetic turf including, but not limited to, fields made from
26 coconut fibers, risk husks, cork, sand, and used shoes;

27 (h) A review of current research on the health impacts of
28 synthetic turf done by authoritative bodies from around the country
29 and the world;

30 (i) Research to fill any data gaps identified in existing state
31 or national health hazard assessments or studies;

32 (j) An examination of the health impacts of exposures to many
33 low-level volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic
34 hydrocarbons found in synthetic turf fields and playgrounds;

35 (k) An analysis that compares the temperatures on synthetic turf,
36 nonwaste tire turf, and grass turf during the high-temperature
37 periods of summer. This analysis must include a health impact
38 analysis including, but not limited to, heat stress, heat illness,
39 and other heat-related health issues.

1 (3) A representative sample of synthetic turf fields and
2 playgrounds around the state must be analyzed for purposes of the
3 study.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A public or private school or local
5 government may not install, or contract for the installation of, a
6 new field or playground surface made from synthetic turf within the
7 boundaries of a public or private school or public recreational park
8 unless the following conditions are met:

9 (a) The bid specification for the turf field or playground
10 surface includes at least one option that does not use crumb rubber
11 from waste tires.

12 (b) The public or private school or local government has obtained
13 at least one estimate from a company that does not use crumb rubber
14 from waste tires in its turf field and playground products.

15 (c) The public or private school or local governments has held a
16 public meeting regarding the installation of synthetic turf with an
17 opportunity for public comments.

18 (2) This section does not apply to:

19 (a) Any installation of a field or playground surface made from
20 synthetic turf that commenced, or any contract for such an
21 installation entered into, prior to April 1, 2016;

22 (b) Any maintenance that is needed on a synthetic turf field or
23 playground in existence as of April 1, 2016.

24 (3) This section expires June 30, 2018.

25 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.95.521 and 2009 c 261 s 3 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 The waste tire removal account is created in the state treasury.
28 Expenditures from the account may be used for the cleanup of
29 unauthorized waste tire piles, measures that prevent future
30 accumulation of unauthorized waste tire piles, ~~((and))~~ road wear
31 related maintenance on state and local public highways, conducting
32 the study of crumb rubber in synthetic turf fields and playgrounds
33 under section 2 of this act, and for grants to assist schools and
34 playgrounds installing fields and playgrounds under section 3 of this
35 act. ~~((During the 2007-2009 fiscal biennium, the legislature may~~
36 ~~transfer from the waste tire removal account to the motor vehicle~~
37 ~~fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the waste~~
38 ~~tire removal account.))~~

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.95.530 and 2014 c 76 s 6 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Moneys in the waste tire removal account may be appropriated
4 to the department of ecology:

5 (a) To provide for funding to state and local governments for the
6 removal of discarded vehicle tires from unauthorized tire dump sites;
7 (~~and~~)

8 (b) To accomplish the other purposes of RCW 70.95.020 as they
9 relate to waste tire cleanup under this chapter; and

10 (c) To provide funding to schools and local governments
11 installing fields and playgrounds under section 3 of this act.

12 (2) In spending funds in the account under this section, the
13 department shall identify communities with the most severe problems
14 with waste tires and provide funds first to those communities to
15 remove accumulations of waste tires.

16 (3) The department shall provide on its web site a summary of
17 state and local government efforts funded using the waste tire
18 removal account, a list of authorized waste tire storage sites and
19 transporters, and tire recycling and reuse rates in the state for
20 each calendar year.

21 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.335.300 and 2015 c 225 s 27 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Every school board of directors shall consider the purchase of
24 playground matting manufactured from shredded waste tires in
25 undertaking construction or maintenance of playgrounds. The
26 department of health shall provide each school board considering the
27 purchase of playground matting with the most recent health studies
28 regarding playground matting from shredded waste tires and each board
29 shall exercise caution where the weight of the studies indicate the
30 potential that the materials may have adverse health effects. The
31 department of enterprise services shall upon request assist in the
32 development of product specifications and vendor identification.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
34 RCW to read as follows:

35 School districts and local governments shall post signs at each
36 playground and playfield with synthetic turf regarding use
37 precautions, including use during excessive heat conditions, hand

1 washing following use, and avoiding food consumption while on the
2 synthetic turf field.

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