**[Model Local Moratorium](#tg9wptv2qc2n) |** [**Model State Moratorium**](#ltsypy4m2jc2) **|** [**Model Local/State Ban**](#6gnrcex1t93z)

*Directions: copy and paste the sample language into a new document and update highlighted areas to fit your needs.*

**Model Synthetic Turf Local Moratorium**

**Findings**

The use of synthetic or artificial turf on playing fields presents a multitude of public health, environmental, and climate concerns. Synthetic turf is a petrochemical product made from plastic fibers typically composed of polypropylene or polyethylene, plastic backing and infill. These components have been found to contain toxic chemicals including phthalates, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), bisphenols, formaldehyde and heavy metals including lead, cadmium, and mercury. In addition to direct exposure to chemicals when using the field, all of these chemicals—including PFAS which are persistent in the environment and human body—could potentially contaminate groundwater supplies via stormwater runoff.

Historically crumb rubber has been used for infill and is made from shredding waste tires. It has been found to contain hazardous chemicals including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, vanadium, zinc, 6ppd and acetone. Health effects associated with these chemical and heavy metals include birth defects, cancer, nervous system damage, immune system suppression, and endocrine disruption. In the very limited studies on alternative infills known carcinogens and neurotoxins, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), lead, zinc, and black carbon were found in nearly all materials examined.

Environmental impacts include flooding due to an impervious surface, contribution to the heat island effect and microplastics in air, soil and waterways. Infill is 5mm or less and thereby a microplastic and as the field is used and exposed to the elements, the plastic blades break up into microplastics, all of which may travel off the field into the surrounding environment or be taken up by field users via ingestion, inhalation, skin absorption, and open wounds or broken skin. Research shows outdoor synthetic turf reaching higher temperatures than natural grass, regardless of the infill materials or carpet fiber type. Studies from Penn State University’s Center for Sports Surface Research compared surface temperatures of synthetic turfs composed of various fibers and infill and found that the maximum surface temperatures during hot, sunny conditions ranged from 140° F to 170° F. A Brigham Young University study found that “The surface temperature of the synthetic turf was 37° F higher than asphalt and 86.5° F hotter than natural turf.” Studies show that a temperature of 125 degrees F surfaces can cause a skin burn in 2 minutes and at a temperature of 130 degrees F a skin burn can occur within 30 seconds.

The Council finds that more information is necessary to make an informed decision on the appropriate use of synthetic turf. In the interest of preventing adverse health impacts and contamination to natural resources, the Council finds that a comprehensive environmental and public health study on the potential threats associated with the use of synthetic turf is warranted.

Therefore, the Council finds that it is consistent with public policy to require such comprehensive environmental and public health study to be undertaken withinX year ; and in the interim, to suspend the installation of synthetic turf products.

**Section 1. Definitions**

For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

“Plastic" means material made from or comprising organic polymers from plant extracts or fossil fuels, whether the material is processed, reprocessed, re-used, recycled or recovered. Polymers are any of various complex organic compounds produced by polymerization—a process in which small molecules combine to make a very large chainlike molecule. Polymers can be molded, extruded, cast into various shapes and films, or drawn into filaments and then used as textile fibers.

“Synthetic fiber” means the fiber used to construct synthetic turf that is constructed from plastic components.

“Synthetic turf” means turf made of plastic components including any material or composition thereof to be used in place of natural grass to surface parks, outdoor playing or athletic fields, indoor athletic facilities or other public venues.

**Section 2. Moratorium**

Moratorium. A moratorium is hereby established on the installation of synthetic turf for the purpose of replacing natural grass, to include parks, athletic fields, schools and universities, indoor athletic facilities or other venues for a period of 1 year from the effective date of this act.

**Section 3. Study of the use of synthetic turf and reporting**

a. The Council shall immediately undertake a review of all available research relating to the potential environmental and health risks and impacts of synthetic turf..

b. The Council shall:

1. Examine various routes of exposure and the health and environmental impact of these pathways including, but not limited to, small fill particle inhalation, volatility, leaching to groundwater, dermal absorption, persistence in the environment, heat island effect and degradation by-products;

2. Solicit input from environmental and public health specialists, and other stakeholders in an open, public process, to include public hearings;

3. Prepare a report to the mayor and as part of public record, that contains the research and studies conducted on synthetic turf. The report shall be filed within 1 year of the effective date of this act.

**Section 4. Findings and Recommendations**

Providing the report finds changes are necessary to protect human health and/or environment, the moratorium shall remain in effect, beyond the X year until the Council acts on the findings and recommendations.

**Section 5. Force and Effect**

This act shall take effect immediately and Section 2 and Section 3 of this act shall continue in full force and effect accordingly;

1. for X year from such effective date, or until the Council acts as required by Section 3 of this act, whichever date is later; or
2. Section 4 shall continue in full force and effect until the Council acts in accordance with said section. Upon the applicable date, the provision of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act shall be deemed repealed.

**Model Synthetic Turf State Moratorium**

**Legislative Findings**

The use of synthetic or artificial turf on playing fields presents a multitude of public health, environmental, and climate concerns. Synthetic turf is a petrochemical product made from plastic fibers typically composed of polypropylene or polyethylene, plastic backing and infill. These components have been found to contain toxic chemicals including phthalates, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), bisphenols, formaldehyde and heavy metals including lead, cadmium, and mercury. In addition to direct exposure to chemicals when using the field, all of these chemicals—including PFAS which are persistent in the environment and human body—could potentially contaminate groundwater supplies via stormwater runoff.

Historically crumb rubber has been used for infill and is made from shredding waste tires. It has been found to contain hazardous chemicals including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, vanadium, zinc, 6ppd and acetone. Health effects associated with these chemical and heavy metals include birth defects, cancer, nervous system damage, immune system suppression, and endocrine disruption. In the very limited studies on alternative infills known carcinogens and neurotoxins, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), lead, zinc, and black carbon were found in nearly all materials examined.

Environmental impacts include flooding due to an impervious surface, contribution to the heat island effect and microplastics in air, soil and waterways. Infill is 5mm or less and thereby a microplastic and as the field is used and exposed to the elements, the plastic blades break up into microplastics, all of which may travel off the field into the surrounding environment or be taken up by field users via ingestion, inhalation, skin absorption, and open wounds or broken skin. Research shows outdoor synthetic turf reaching higher temperatures than natural grass, regardless of the infill materials or carpet fiber type. Studies from Penn State University’s Center for Sports Surface Research compared surface temperatures of synthetic turfs composed of various fibers and infill and found that the maximum surface temperatures during hot, sunny conditions ranged from 140° F to 170° F. A Brigham Young University study found that “The surface temperature of the synthetic turf was 37° F higher than asphalt and 86.5° F hotter than natural turf.” Studies show that a temperature of 125 degrees F surfaces can cause a skin burn in 2 minutes and at a temperature of 130 degrees F a skin burn can occur within 30 seconds.

The Legislature finds that more information is necessary to make an informed decision on the appropriate use of synthetic turf. In the interest of preventing adverse health impacts and contamination to natural resources, the Legislature finds that a comprehensive environmental and public health study on the potential threats associated with the use of synthetic turf is warranted.

Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is consistent with public policy to require such comprehensive environmental and public health study to be undertaken withinX year ; and in the interim, to suspend the installation of synthetic turf products.

**Section 1. Definitions**

For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

“Commissioner” means the head of the state environmental protection agency or his or her designee.

“Department” means the state environmental protection agency.

“Plastic" means material made from or comprising organic polymers from plant extracts or fossil fuels, whether the material is processed, reprocessed, re-used, recycled or recovered. Polymers are any of various complex organic compounds produced by polymerization—a process in which small molecules combine to make a very large chainlike molecule. Polymers can be molded, extruded, cast into various shapes and films, or drawn into filaments and then used as textile fibers.

“Synthetic fiber” means the fiber used to construct synthetic turf that is constructed from plastic components.

“Synthetic turf” means turf made of plastic components including any material or composition thereof used in place of grass to surface parks, outdoor playing or athletic fields, indoor athletic facilities or other venues. Also referred to as “artificial turf”.

**Section 2. Moratorium**

Moratorium. A moratorium is hereby established on the installation of synthetic turf for the purpose of replacing natural grass in any public places, including parks, athletic fields, schools and universities, indoor athletic facilities or other public venues for a period of X year from the effective date of this act, or until the Department reports to the governor and the legislature as required in Section 3 of this act, whichever is later. Further, if Section 4 of this act is applicable, the moratorium will remain in effect until the legislature takes action as required by Section 4 of this act.

**Section 3. Study of the use of synthetic turf and reporting**

1. Upon enactment the Department shall:
2. using current research, examine the ways in which synthetic turf is a risk to public health, the surrounding environment and climate emission goals for Location, as compared to natural grass solutions;
3. examine natural grass solutions, currently available techniques for grass field construction and organic maintenance as viable alternatives for Location and solicit input from environmental and public health specialists, and other stakeholders in an open, public process, to include public hearings.

(b) Within X years of the effective date of this act the Department shall:

1. Prepare a report to the governor and the legislature that contains the research and studies conducted on synthetic turf. The report must:
2. Address the concerns enumerated section (a) above;
3. Recommend the appropriate and inappropriate use of synthetic turf; and
4. Recommend whether the moratorium should or should not remain in effect based on section four.

2. Conduct an outreach program to inform local governments, civic organizations, schools and the public regarding the findings of the report.

3. All other departments or agencies shall, at the request of the Commissioner, provide expertise, assistance, and data that will enable such Commissioner to carry out his or her powers and duties.

**Section 4. Findings and Recommendations**

Providing the report and/or the summary of the outreach efforts finds changes are necessary to protect human health and/or environment, the Commissioner shall forward to the legislature a request to extend the moratorium and submit a copy of the request to the governor. The extension shall remain in effect until the legislature acts on the findings and recommendations.

**Section 5. Force and Effect**

This act shall take effect immediately and Section 2 and Section 3 of this act shall continue in full force and effect accordingly;

1. for six months from such effective date, or until the Department reports to the governor and the legislature as required by Section 3 of this act, whichever date is later; or
2. Section 4 shall continue in full force and effect until the legislature acts in accordance with said section. Upon the applicable date, the provision of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act shall be deemed repealed.

**Model Local or State Ban on Artificial Turf**

An Act prohibiting public contracts for the purchase and installation of artificial turf fields.

**SECTION 1. Definitions**

1. “Artificial turf” means any plastic material used in place of natural grass to surface parks, outdoor playing or athletic fields, indoor athletic facilities or other public venues whether or not the artificial turf contains intentionally added PFAS.
2. “Plastic" means material made from or comprising organic polymers from plant extracts or fossil fuels, whether the material is processed, reprocessed, re-used, recycled or recovered. Polymers are any of various complex organic compounds produced by polymerization—a process in which small molecules combine to make a very large chainlike molecule. Polymers can be molded, extruded, cast into various shapes and films, or drawn into filaments and then used as textile fibers.

**SECTION 2. Chapter X of the \_\_\_Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:**

Section X. Effective immediately, No municipality or other government body, including, but not limited to, any school district, state department, or state agency, shall enter a contract for the purchase, use, or installation of artificial turf for a new or existing field. Artificial turf fields that have been already installed may remain in use, but shall not be replaced with artificial turf

**SECTION 3. Chapter X of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:**

Section X. No municipality shall provide funding for the purchase, use or installation of artificial turf for any new or existing field after the enactment of this Act. Any artificial turf field that is in use prior to the enactment of this Act shall be allowed to be used for its useful life but shall not be replaced with artificial turf.