



10000SR0118 Enrolled

LRB100 09589 MST 19757 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 118

2 WHEREAS, Since the late 1990s, the installation and use of
3 indoor and outdoor artificial turf fields with crumb rubber
4 infill has grown exponentially across the United States and
5 particularly in Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, The costs to install artificial turf fields with
7 crumb rubber range from \$500,000 to well over one million
8 dollars with a useful life of six to 12 years depending on
9 usage and maintenance; maintenance costs which include
10 disinfecting are around \$100,000 annually; and

11 WHEREAS, The installation of artificial turf fields with
12 crumb rubber infill is largely paid for by taxpayer dollars; a
13 typical artificial turf field uses between 20,000 to 40,000
14 ground up car and truck tires for its crumb rubber infill; the
15 crumb rubber industry came out of an effort to figure out how
16 to dispose of millions of used tires that were considered too
17 toxic to dump into landfills; and

18 WHEREAS, On October 8, 2014, NBC News aired a national
19 report, "How Safe is the Artificial Turf Your Child Plays On?"
20 that brought the issue of crumb rubber into the national
21 consciousness; Amy Griffin, the former United States women's
22 national team goalkeeper coach at the University of Washington,

1 compiled a list that now contains the names of over 230
2 athletes, most of whom are soccer players, particularly
3 goalies, that have been stricken with cancer due to repeated
4 contact with crumb rubber; since that NBC report, there have
5 been many other reports across the United States and Europe
6 about the safety of crumb rubber, particularly for young
7 children; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, children as young as 18 months are playing
9 sports, particularly soccer, on crumb rubber artificial turf
10 fields; more and more children are playing sports on these
11 fields with the presumption that the fields are safe; children
12 can be exposed to highly toxic crumb rubber substances through
13 inhalation, skin absorption, and accidental ingestion; and

14 WHEREAS, The scientific name for crumb rubber is
15 styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), and according to OSHA, chronic
16 exposure to both styrene and butadiene can harm the central
17 nervous system of children; the EPA has classified butadiene as
18 a known human carcinogen; and

19 WHEREAS, In June of 2015, Environment and Human Health,
20 Inc., an organization of physicians and public health
21 professionals, conducted a study of 14 samples of crumb rubber
22 at Yale University and found that 96 chemicals were found in
23 crumb rubber infill; of the 96 chemicals that were found, 20%

1 were carcinogenic, about 50% had not been tested for toxicity,
2 and many had incomplete toxicity testing completed; another 40%
3 were found to be skin and eye irritants and also causes of
4 breathing problems; and

5 WHEREAS, New York and Connecticut-based studies found that
6 crumb rubber infill "off-gassed" toxic chemicals; and

7 WHEREAS, Tire rubber is composed of 30% to 40% of "carbon
8 black" which is suspected to being a cancer-causing agent; no
9 studies regarding long-term exposure to carbon black on indoor
10 or outdoor fields have been conducted; tires may also contain
11 "carbon nanotubes" which some scientists believe may act
12 similar to asbestos when inhaled into the lungs and cause
13 cancer; and

14 WHEREAS, The crumb rubber industry and recycling
15 industries tout crumb rubber as 100% safe, often referring to
16 studies that have already been completed and statements made by
17 the EPA and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 2008;
18 however, in 2013 CPSC Chairman Elliot Kay said his 2008 CPSC
19 statement "does not reflect my view on the state of play. Safe
20 to play on means something to parents that I don't think we
21 intended to convey"; and

22 WHEREAS, On January 28, 2016, due to the lack of reliable

1 studies on the safety of crumb rubber, the CDC, EPA, and CPSC
2 initiated a multi-agency plan to study the long-term effects of
3 crumb rubber exposure on human health; and

4 WHEREAS, The use of crumb rubber is unregulated and lacks
5 safety oversight by any governmental agency; furthermore,
6 crumb rubber was excluded from classifications as a "children's
7 product" and thus exempt from laws on chemicals "of high
8 concern for children" found in children's products; and

9 WHEREAS, When applying crumb rubber to turf fields, workers
10 are advised to wear respirators in order to protect them from
11 inhaling crumb rubber dust; and

12 WHEREAS, There are no requirements to inform field users
13 about the chemical content, associated risk, or precautionary
14 guidelines regarding crumb rubber dust; parents are often told
15 by the turf field owner that these fields are safe based on
16 unreliable static air quality testing; and

17 WHEREAS, Citing the safety of its students, the Los Angeles
18 Unified School District, the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation
19 Department, the New York City Department of Parks and
20 Recreation, the Chicago Public Schools, as well as other
21 communities across the country have moved away from using crumb
22 rubber infill in favor of a non-petroleum based alternative

1 infill for their turf fields like sand or cork; therefore, be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the State of
5 Illinois to monitor and, to the extent feasible, cooperate with
6 the federal agencies that are studying the long-term effects of
7 crumb rubber exposure on human health; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we urge the owners and operators of any
9 indoor or outdoor facility that has artificial turf containing
10 crumb rubber infill and that is used by children between the
11 ages of 18 months and 12 years to post at the facility a notice
12 which (i) states that the facility uses an artificial turf with
13 crumb rubber infill, (ii) informs users of the facility about
14 the 2016 multi-agency federal crumb rubber study and about the
15 possible chemical exposure to children playing on crumb rubber
16 infill, and (iii) describes a location where additional
17 information about the 2016 multi-agency federal crumb rubber
18 study can be obtained.