

SENATE No. 523

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to further research and report analysis of athletic performance surfaces their safety and recommendations.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

SENATE No. 523

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 523) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to further research and report analysis of athletic performance surfaces their safety and recommendations. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to further research and report analysis of athletic performance surfaces their safety and recommendations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION I. – The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 Comprehensive Study of Athletic Performance Surfaces –
4 Including Artificial Grass – & Turf Surfaces Act

5 An Act to Further Research And Report Analysis of Athletic Performance Surfaces
6 Their Safety – And Recommendations

7 SECTION II. – PURPOSE

8 There shall be established a: Comprehensive Athletic Surface Performance Commission
9 (CASPC). Significant Public Health concerns, have grown regarding the use of artificial grass,
10 and various artificial turf surfaces, in schools, athletic facilities, parks, and other locations across

11 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and cautionary information, suggests that such use should
12 be limited, and/or ceased. Important analysis, and research on this set of issues, is needed, before
13 further potentially negligent, and wasteful public expenditure, is carried out.

14 This Special Commission, shall conduct comprehensive research relating to studying
15 athletic performance surfaces – including artificial grass – and turf surfaces; and shall provide a
16 detailed, factual analysis of all such surfaces, their costs, their public health effects, and their
17 long-term values.

18 SECTION III. – MEMBERSHIP

19 This Special Commission, shall consist of eleven (11) members, who shall include: Three
20 (3) members, including at least one (1) researcher, designated by the PFAS Lab, at the Social
21 Science Health Research Institute at Northeastern University; one (1) representative of the
22 Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; one (1) representative of
23 outdoor high school sports coaches; one (1) representative of outdoor college sports coaches; one
24 (1) sports medicine medical doctor professional; one (1) representative of an established
25 environmental organization; and three (3) members of the general public, at least one (1) of
26 whom will be a parent of an outdoor sport student.

27 Once the Special Commission is appointed, and convened, they shall select one (1)
28 member, as Chair. They shall conduct such inquiry as further described, and produce a report, no
29 more than 24 months after beginning operations.

30 SECTION IV. – ADMINISTRATIVE LOCATIONS – AND OPERATIONS

31 The Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, shall
32 designate, a representative designee, to be a member of the Special Commission; as noted above,
33 and provide such resources, experts, and facilitation, as needed.

34 The Commission, shall conduct a series of hearings, across The Commonwealth of
35 Massachusetts, inviting a wide range of public comment, and asking detailed scientific, and
36 medical questions, and information.