
SENATE BILL 6235

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Snyder, Pelz and Drew

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to artificial turf; adding a new section to Title
2 70 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the incidence and
5 severity of unintentional sports injuries have been significantly
6 reduced by regulations that improve the safety of playing fields or
7 that protect players who have accidents. Football helmets and pads,
8 baseball batting helmets, catchers protection, hockey goalie padding
9 and masks, padded football goal posts, and more do not reduce the
10 incidence of accidents, but significantly reduce injuries by protecting
11 players from trauma.

12 The legislature finds that these public health and safety measures
13 have greatly reduced both the cost of injuries and the pain and
14 suffering experienced by youth, adults, their family members, and
15 sports fans.

16 The legislature further finds that the cost of maintaining safe and
17 natural turf may be offset by savings to sports teams and families in
18 the form of reduced medical bills, increased years of productive
19 participation in sports by young or highly paid, contract athletes, and

1 by increased enjoyment in watching athletes cope with the challenges
2 provided by the interaction of natural turf and the weather.

3 Finally, the legislature finds that natural turf provides several
4 environmental benefits over artificial turf, including a reduction in
5 the toxic by-products from the artificial turf manufacturing process
6 and increased oxygen production from grass.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to Title 70 RCW to
8 read as follows:

9 It is unlawful to play a sanctioned sport that is traditionally
10 played on grass such as football, soccer, baseball, field hockey, and
11 other sports, including sports at the high school, college, and
12 university level, professional sports, and amateur sports, on a surface
13 other than grass. Owners and operators of sports fields larger than
14 fifteen thousand square feet are strictly liable for injuries that
15 occur on fields that are not in compliance with this section.
16 "Sanctioned sport" for the purpose of this section means a sport that
17 is endorsed or regulated by a political entity, including K-12 schools
18 or institutions of higher education, by nonprofit organizations,
19 associations, or corporations, or by professional sports organizations.

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