Committee on Children
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7003
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF RECYCLED TIRE RUBBER AT MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS.
Vote Date: 2/21/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/7/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:
To create a moratorium for crumb rubber ground covers on public or school playgrounds until the EPA report is completed.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors
The Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors is in support of H.B. 7003. The commissioner stated that there are numerous toxins and carcinogens in recycled rubber. These include up to 96 chemicals in samples of tire rubber. Some of these toxins are known carcinogens and bodily irritants. The commission believes it’s best to be on the side of caution when it comes to the safety of children.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Nancy Alderman, President, Environment and Human Health
The Environmental and Human Health Inc. is pleased to support H.B. 7003. However, the President would like to see some of the language changed. She would like to see the language changed from “Crumb Rubber” to “Mulch.”

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters is in support of H.B. 7003. The testimony stated that harmful carcinogens and toxins reside in rubber mulch. Children can come in contact with these toxins in a number of ways.
Anne Hulick, State Director of Clean Water Action and Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Environment

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Environment is passionately in support of H.B. 7003. The testimony stated that children should not be near hazardous material. Children are also more vulnerable to health hazards than other age groups and can come in contact with harmful material in many ways.

The Connecticut Association of Schools

The Connecticut Association of Schools is in support of H.B. 7003 with a few revisions. The association does not want athletic fields to be included in part of the municipal playground. Furthermore, they would like current playgrounds using crumb rubber to keep the current surface and maintain it as needed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Steve Bigelow, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing Liberty Tire Recycling

Liberty Tire Recycling is in opposition of H.B. 7003. His testimony stated that over ninety studies have been initiated in regards to the health hazard of crumb rubber and no negative health effects were reported.

Valene Stolfi Collins, Executive Director, The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association

The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association is opposed to H.B. 7003. The testimony submitted stated that there are inconsistencies with current scientific research. The testimony also stated that the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Environmental Protection Agency have found little to no health risks correlated with recycled rubbers.

The Connecticut Association Board of Education

CABE is opposed to H.B. 7003 until a conclusive report by the Environmental Protection Agency is released. School districts already have budgets planned to use crumb rubber as a play area surface for playgrounds. Implementing this legislation by the time the education budget is proposed can lead to poor planning and budgetary issues.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is opposed to H.B. 7003 until the Environmental Protection Agency’s study comes out this year. Their concerns rest upon a town’s education budget. With the restriction of crumb rubber for children’s playgrounds, the town may have to resort to more expensive materials.

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents

The CT Association of Public Schools Superintendents is opposed to H.B. 7003. They are opposed to this bill because the EPA has not released a conclusive report on the safety of using tire rubber. The association believes legislators would be making a decision on a topic without being fully informed. Local municipalities would also be stuck with the bill as they would have to likely resort to more expensive ground material.

Tony DeSimone, Executive Director, New England Tire and Service Association
The New England Tire and Service Association is opposed to H.B. 7003. They are concerned that this bill would hurt their industry. New England Tire Association is concerned about the safety and well-being of others, but cannot support the bill without conclusive results from the EPA showing potential health risks.

**Arthur Dodge, CEO, Ecore International Inc**
Ecore International Inc. is opposed to H.B. 7003. Dodge believes that any constraint to municipalities in this area is undemocratic. He also cites no conclusive research indicating a safety threat.

**Julie Lemay, Environmental Health Scientist, Gradient**
Julie Lemay is opposed to H.B. 7003. She stated that the presence of chemicals in crumb rubber does not mean it will pose a health risk. She also stated her child has been in contact with crumb rubber for years. Without sufficient evidence pointing to health hazards, she cannot support this bill.

**Eric Q. Roise, Landscape Architect, Kaestle Boos Associate Architect**
Kaestle Boos Associate Architect is opposed to H.B. 7003. The proposed ban will reduce choices municipalities have in providing playground material for children. He also cites that there is no federal study which shows a health risk.

Reported by: Michael Rider  
Date: March 12, 2019