



Bill: HB1355: Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Bill Sponsor: Delegates [Hill](#), [Boyce](#), [Fair](#), [Foley](#), [Guyton](#), [Kaufman](#), [Lehman](#), [R. Long](#), [McCaskill](#), [Ruth](#), [Simpson](#), [Taveras](#), [Terrasa](#), and [Woods](#)

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Submitting Organization: **Less Plastic Please** by Liz Feighner

Position: Favorable

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County based grassroots organization representing more than 200 subscribers. We are also a partner of the [Zero Waste Team](#) of [Howard County Sierra Club](#) and a [Beyond Plastics](#) Affiliate. Less Plastic Please supports **HB1355**, Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment.

This bill creates a Maryland Mattress Stewardship program, requiring manufacturers of mattresses and box springs sold in Maryland to take responsibility for the collection, processing, renovation recycling, and disposal of all used mattresses.

More than 50,000 mattresses are discarded in the United States *each day*, less than 5% are recycled, but at least 77% of materials in mattresses are recyclable. Most charities and donation centers will not accept old mattresses. A successful recycling program will make the disposal of mattresses easier for both consumers and institutions, provide new recycling sector jobs, and provide many environmental benefits. We already have one successful mattress recycler in Baltimore, Turbo Haul, that has a proven track record of successful recycling.

The Mattress Recycling Council, a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs in states that have passed mattress recycling laws and was founded by the bedding industry, recycles nearly 2 million mattresses each year. They've found that *every* mattress recycled saves 500 gallons of water, enough energy to power the average household for three days, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equivalent to driving 60 fewer miles.

Ultimately, extended producer responsibility bills like this one will incentivize the design of more sustainable products and build the supply chains necessary for a circular economy using recycled materials. The bill is a step towards reducing solid waste harm to our environment.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to pass the Mattress Stewardship Program bill.

Submitted for Less Plastic Please by Liz Feighner, Columbia MD