



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**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 & Economic Matters  
**Organization:** Less Plastic Please by Liz Feighner  
**Position:** Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Howard County Climate Action supports HB1355. This bill would create 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.

Establishing extended producer responsibility programs for mattresses and other difficult-to-manage materials was one of the recommendations of Maryland's 2014 Zero Waste Plan. A well-run Maryland Stewardship Program would potentially divert 70-85% of mattresses from landfills and incinerators by increasing convenience for customers and recycling, while creating jobs and saving local governments and taxpayers the cost of end-of-life management of used mattresses. Most charities and donation centers will not accept old mattresses.

Although Howard County provides a mattress recycling program, it is not convenient for many residents. The Residents' Convenience Center at Alpha Ridge Landfill is not centrally located, and transporting a large mattress is a barrier for many residents. Also, this recycling program is not available to businesses such as hotels, dormitories, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions that need to replace and dispose of old mattresses.

In most states, including Maryland, the costs of disposal and cleanup are borne by local governments and financed by taxpayers. As of 2022, only 5 percent of discarded mattresses were recycled. An estimated 15-20 million mattresses are discarded annually in the United States, or more than 50,000 per day, an inefficient use of costly landfill space. Incineration of mattresses results in air pollution and contributes to climate change.

The disposal of so many used mattresses is costly to taxpayers and a waste of valuable resources. More than 75 percent of mattress components can be recycled while creating jobs. Successful mattress stewardship programs are already operational in several states, reducing their financial burden for disposal, conserving landfill space, and incinerating fewer mattresses.

We urge a favorable report for HB1355.

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

[www.HoCoClimateAction.org](http://www.HoCoClimateAction.org)

[HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com](mailto:HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com)