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Legislative District 12A

Howard County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and  
Health Facilities  
Public Health and Minority  
Health Disparities



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF  
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**SUPPORT**

**HB1355 - Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

**HB1355** closes a hole in our environmental sustainability plan by establishing a state-wide mattress stewardship program, similar to programs successfully piloted in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and California, but modified based on lessons since their introduction 8 years ago to meet Maryland’s ecologic sustainability goals. Once fully implemented, and assuming success in ongoing efforts to expand downstream markets, the program can serve as an economic engine by supporting the growth of local recycling industries and creating job opportunities in waste management and recycling sectors. Increased disaggregation of mattresses into their component wood, metal, and textiles with diversion, reduction, re-use, and recycling (DR3) has been modeled successfully for over 20 years by St. Vincent De Paul Society in Oregon, creating good paying jobs for those traditionally hard to employ<sup>1</sup>. In California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island over 13.2 million mattresses have been collected and more than 255,000 tons of material have been recycled.<sup>2</sup> Oregon signed their own mattress recycling program into law in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Mattresses take up valuable landfill space, contribute to air and water pollution, and contain harmful chemicals that can leach into our ecosystem. According to the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), “More than 50,000 mattresses are discarded in the U.S. each day and more than 75 percent of a mattress can be recycled”.<sup>4</sup> At our current disposal rate, Maryland has only 21 years left before state landfills reach their municipal solid waste capacity. This capacity is further limited when you consider that Maryland is a net waste exporter – which is costly, and jurisdictions such as Baltimore County are needing to expand landfill capacity vertically<sup>5</sup>. The 21-year projected lifespan also does not account for acceleration due to population growth.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, the inefficient disposal of mattresses creates logistical challenges and adds to the financial burden of waste management.

**HB1355** would establish the Mattress Stewardship Advisory Board of Stakeholders charged with developing and submitting a Mattress Stewardship Program plan, on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, for approval and implementation by the Department of the Environment to include:

- Phased-in prohibition on the disposal of mattresses in landfills and incinerators, with certain exceptions.
- A dedicated fund from point-of-sale assessments limited to cover program costs.
- Education and promotional requirements.
- Authorization for intrastate cooperation to further program objectives.

I urge a favorable report of HB1355 so we can finally put this issue to bed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Hill".

<sup>1</sup> [Give Help. Get Help | Who We Are | Lane County's Best Nonprofit \(svdp.us\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Program States - Mattress Recycling Council | Recycling Programs in California, Connecticut & Rhode Island](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Oregon - Mattress Recycling Council | Recycling Programs in California, Connecticut & Rhode Island](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Our Impact - Mattress Recycling Council | Recycling Programs in California, Connecticut & Rhode Island](#)

<sup>5</sup> 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan: 2024-2033 City of Baltimore [Baltimore SWMP Update. Pre-Final. 5-15-23. 0.pdf \(baltimorecity.gov\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report 2023 [EN9-204\(n\)\(5\)\\_2022.pdf \(state.md.us\)](#)