

**HB1355\_IndivisibleHoCoMD\_FAV\_CrystalKonny.pdf**

Uploaded by: Crystal Konny

Position: FAV



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

**Testimony before House Environment & Transportation Committee  
March 6, 2024**

### **Position: Favorable**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the committee, my name is Crystal Konny, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB1355**, Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment. We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Hill and her colleagues for sponsoring this important legislation.

This bill establishes a statewide product stewardship system to deal comprehensively with mattresses and a Mattress Stewardship Advisory Board to advise on implementation of the program. Producers will be required to submit a plan for a Mattress Stewardship Program for approval by July 1, 2025. The bill prohibits a person from disposing of a mattress in a landfill or an incinerator on and after January 1, 2029 in most cases. The bill establishes an initial assessment fee that will be phased out when the program becomes profitable.

Mattresses are one of the most problematic items in the state's waste stream because they are bulky, heavy, and often illegally dumped. Americans send more than 50,000 mattresses to the landfill *each day*, less than 5% are recycled, but at least 77% of materials in mattresses are recyclable. Stewardship programs for mattresses are successful in four other states. A successful recycling program will make the disposal of mattresses easier for both consumers and institutions, and provide many new recycling sector jobs in addition to the many environmental benefits.

The Mattress Recycling Council is a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs in states that have passed mattress recycling laws, was founded by the bedding industry, and 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. **We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.**

Crystal Konny  
Columbia, MD 21044

**HB1355 Mattress Bill\_TurboHaul Testimony\_030424.pd**

Uploaded by: Kevin Daly

Position: FAV



March 4, 2024

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Re: HB1355 Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment**

I'm Kevin Daly, President of TurboHaul, in support of HB1355.

According to figures provided by the Mattress Recycling Council, the State of Maryland discards over 370,000 mattress per year.

To put that number into perspective, it is enough volume in mattresses to fill FedEx field...to the top. Or lay that number of mattresses end-to-end and you could walk on a very springy road all the way to Boston, Massachusetts.

These are sobering calculations when considering the environmental impact mattress can have on our beautiful state. However, I'm very pleased to let you know that Maryland is recycling mattresses!

My company, TurboHaul, currently operates in Baltimore the largest mattress recycling facility in the Mid-Atlantic region. We have been successfully recycling mattresses for over five years. During that time, we have recycled over 200,000 mattresses and box-springs, and diverted approximately 10,000,000 pounds from the waste stream. In 2023, we expanded into a new 18,000 square foot facility to accommodate the mattress recycling needs of a growing number of Maryland counties and universities that we service.

At our facility, mattresses are cut open and broken down into their various components. Polyurethane foam is baled for use in carpet padding. Steel springs are processed for scrap metal. Wood waste separated that can be used for mulch. Felt pads for re-use as protective blankets and absorbent pads. Natural cotton for composting. Coconut fiber for sediment control applications.

As you can imagine, mattress recycling is a very difficult process, requiring well trained and compensated employees, large amounts of warehouse space and expensive machinery. TurboHaul has invested significantly to support Maryland in its mattress recycling efforts.

However, for mattress recycling to have continued viability in the Maryland, it is critical that recyclers and end markets can count on a stable and adequate supply of mattresses for processing and materials for recycling.

That is what this bill can provide. I'd like to thank Delegate Hill for her determined leadership on this bill, and for all others who have joined in sponsorship.

By creating a robust mattress recycling industry in the state, the bill will greatly increase mandated diversion rates, considerably increase landfill life, reduce waste processing costs, protect the environment, and perhaps most importantly create jobs suitable for disadvantaged individuals to build a real career with living wages, great benefits, and the opportunity for advancement.

I lend my full support and expertise to the furtherance of this bill and look forward to working together with other stakeholders towards a successful mattress recycling program for the great State of Maryland.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Daly', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kevin Daly, President  
301-604-8090 office  
301-674-1245 cell



## ATTACHMENT

### Cost Considerations for Mattress Recycling

Many times, when analyzing the cost of recycling mattresses, a comparison is drawn between the recycling fees versus the current cost per ton of landfilling or incinerating the material. Unfortunately, this sort of comparison does not begin to account for the many ancillary costs associated with the dumping or burning of mattresses. These include:

- Increased collection and transportation costs due to bulky mattresses preventing the maximization of payloads.
- An inordinate amount of cell space consumed by mattresses in landfills due to their inability to compact at the same ratio as other waste. Garbage compacts to 1600 pounds per cubic yard. Mattresses compact to only 360 pounds per cubic yard.
- The destabilization of the landfill edges and sides due to the lack of compaction and 'float' of mattresses causing collapse hazards for landfill personnel and leakage of gas.
- The creation of air pockets within the landfill that disrupt the proper flow and capture of methane gas, and create fire hazards.
- The leaching of toxic, fire retardant chemicals from the mattresses into ground water.
- The severe damage to trucks and heavy equipment at the landfill caused by wire wrap – a phenomena that occurs when mattress springs get caught up in the drive shaft, transaxle, rear differential and/or hubs as mattresses are driven over for dumping and compaction.

The damage caused to specialized landfill equipment by mattresses can easily run into the 10s of thousands of dollars and cost 10s of thousands more in downtime. The issue has become so prevalent in the industry that last year Republic Services, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest waste company in the nation, decided to impose fees for mattresses entering their landfills of \$250 per unit. Almost all privately owned transfer stations and landfills in the Mid-Atlantic region have followed suit and imposed significant surcharges on mattresses brought to their facilities.

Private enterprise has learned what we must. That tipping fees don't tell the full story. And that the TRUE cost of landfilling mattresses far outweighs the cost of diverting and recycling.

Further to this point, we are currently employed by many privately owned waste facilities in the region who pay us far more than their regular tipping fee to properly recycle their mattresses. They know that recycling actually saves them money, and it's the right thing to do.



**HB1355\_Mattress\_Stewardship\_EEE\_LPP.org\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Liz Feighner

Position: FAV



**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



**HB1355\_MDSierraClub\_fav 6Mar2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Martha Ainsworth

Position: FAV



Maryland Chapter  
P.O. Box 278  
Riverdale, MD 20738

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**  
**Testimony on: HB 1355 “Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment”**  
**Position: Support**  
**Hearing Date: March 6, 2024**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports HB1355. This bill would create a Maryland Mattress Stewardship Program in which the manufacturers of mattresses and box springs sold in the state would take responsibility for the collection, processing, renovation, recycling, and ultimate disposal of all used mattresses, in conformance with a plan submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by July 1, 2025. The organization representing mattress manufacturers would be required to implement the program within a year after MDE approval of the plan. The program would be funded by an assessment added to the price of mattresses paid at the time of purchase that can only be used to finance the stewardship program. The bill would also ban the landfilling and incineration of mattresses and box springs as of January 1, 2029.

An estimated 15-20 million mattresses are discarded annually in the United States, or more than 50,000 per day.<sup>1</sup> They are discarded by households, hotels, dormitories, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. These bulky and springy large items cannot be compressed and result in inefficient use of costly landfill space. The use of incineration as a disposal method results in air pollution and contributes to climate change. An unknown number are illegally dumped in the environment. In most states, including Maryland, the costs of disposal and cleanup are borne by local government and financed by taxpayers. As of 2022, only 5 percent of discarded mattresses were actually recycled.<sup>2</sup>

The disposal of so many used mattresses is not only costly to taxpayers, it is also a waste of valuable resources. More than 75 percent of a mattress can be recycled when it is broken down into its components.<sup>3</sup> Steel springs are a recyclable metal resource. Foam can be recovered and made into carpet padding. Wood can be broken up and made into mulch or animal bedding. Cotton and other fabric fibers can be made into insulation or industrial filters. The process is labor-intensive, so increased mattress recycling creates jobs.

Under this program, all manufacturers selling mattresses in Maryland individually or through another entity must participate in a stewardship plan in which they take responsibility for the end-of-life management of used mattresses. The program’s objectives, goals, operations, management, budget, calculation of the assessment, and other details would be elaborated in a Plan that must be approved by MDE. Additional public accountability is provided by independent audits and annual reports. The Plan must be reevaluated by the Department every five years, which provides an opportunity to update and improve the program.

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<sup>1</sup>Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) website, accessed 2/27/2024, <https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org>

<sup>2</sup>TheRoundup.org (<https://theroundup.org/mattress-industry-statistics/>), accessed February 28, 2023.

<sup>3</sup>MRC website, *op. cit.*

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

Successful mattress stewardship programs are already operational in Connecticut (since 2015), California (2016), and Rhode Island (2016); Oregon passed legislation in 2022, with an expected launch in 2024. These programs provide a dramatic increase in availability and convenience of drop-off and collection sites, as well as public education and engagement with local mattress recycling and repurposing businesses.

Collectively, the programs in these states have recycled more than 12 million mattresses since their inception, saving 11.9 million cubic yards of landfill space and recovering 450 million pounds of material for use in new items.<sup>4</sup> The 2021 annual reports for these programs, run by the nonprofit Mattress Recycling Council in each state, report a mattress recycling rate of 60% in Rhode Island, 76.9% in California, and 73% in Connecticut. The programs have reduced the responsibilities of local government and their financial burden for disposal, conserved landfill space, and reduced incineration.

HB 1355 acts on one of the recommendations of Maryland's 2014 Zero Waste Plan to establish extended producer responsibility programs for mattresses and other difficult-to-manage materials.<sup>5</sup> A well-run Maryland Stewardship Program would potentially divert 70-85% of mattresses from landfills and incinerators by increasing recycling and convenience to customers, while creating new jobs and saving local governments and taxpayers the cost of end-of-life management of used mattresses. We respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1355.

Carolyn Parsa  
Chapter Zero Waste Team  
Carolyn.Parsa@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

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<sup>4</sup>MRC website, *op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> Maryland Department of the Environment. 2014. *Zero Waste Maryland*, Recommendation 4.3, p. 3: 'Establish EPR programs for mattresses and other difficult-to-manage materials.'

# **HB1355 Mattress Stewardship.Letter of Support. SWA**

Uploaded by: Nancy Meyer

Position: FAV

**Nancy J. Meyer  
Chair  
Prince George's County  
Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
c/o Kevin Roy Serrona  
3500 Brown Station Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 4, 2024

Dear Delegate Korman and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (PGCSWAC) which was established "to provide community input, guidance and advice to the County Executive and County Council on matters relating to solid waste management in the County". The powers and duties of the PGCSWAC include providing review, recommendations, and impacts of various plans, reports, operations, budgets and impacts of County actions related to solid waste management and resource recovery. We also seek and support input from citizens, business and industries throughout the County.

PGCSWAC's powers and duties includes recommending local and state legislation necessary to accomplish effective solid waste management. The PGCSWAC is made up of concerned local citizens, advocates, and professionals in fields relating to solid waste management, resource recovery and environmental stewardship.

Our concern today is the critical necessity of passing and **implementing House Bill 1355, “Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment”** bill which would create a program to recycle, reuse, and effectively divert mattresses from our landfills and incinerators.

PGCSWAC supports HB1355 in order to address the proliferation of discarded mattresses filling our waste disposal facilities. Many are illegally discarded and dumped in our communities. Mattresses are large and bulky take up valuable space in landfills and tend to capture methane in their large air spaces as they and materials around them decompose.

In Prince George’s County, we are spending precious public funds to build more landfill capacity. Taking mattresses out of the waste stream would extend the life of the facility and preserve valuable materials. More than 75 percent of a mattresses can be recycled when they are broken down into the constituent components. Since the process of reclaiming materials is labor intensive, new jobs and opportunities are created.

Programs operating in other states demonstrate the viability and the environmental benefits of mattress recycling and reuse. Successful programs already exist in Connecticut (since 2015), California (2016), Rhode Island (2016) and Oregon (to begin in 2024). These programs have collectively recycled more than 12 million mattresses since their inception, saving 11.9 million cubic yards of landfill space and recovering more than 450 million pounds of material for reuse. The rates of recycling in these states are from 60 percent to almost 77 percent.

These programs have REDUCED the responsibilities of local government and the related financial and operational burden for disposal, conserved landfill space, reduced incineration, and created new jobs.

This bill supports one of the recommendations of *Maryland’s 2014 Zero Waste Plan* to establish extended producer responsibility programs for mattresses and other difficult to manage materials. This program in Maryland would potentially divert 70 – 85 percent of mattresses from our waste disposal system, conserve resources,

save public funds and help create another opportunity structure for a circular, reuse economy in Maryland. We request your support of HB 1355.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy J. Meyer

CC: Honorable Eric Olson, Councilmember, District 3  
Prince George's County Council  
Kenneth Battle, Committee Chair  
Transport, infrastructure, Energy and Environment  
Prince George's County Council  
Marilyn E. Naumann, Associate Director  
Resource Recovery Division, Dept. of Environment  
Barbara Sollner-Webb, Vice-Chair,  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Na'ilah Dawkins, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Charles L. Renninger, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
David C. Brosch, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Mouhaman S. Kola, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
William L. Walmsley, Jr, Commissioner  
Prince George's County Solid Waste Advisory Commission





**HB1355\_Mattress\_ENT\_HoCoCA.org\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ruth White

Position: FAV



**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)

# **FINAL.HB1355 Mattress - 2024 Del Hill Testimony -**

Uploaded by: Terri Hill

Position: FAV

**TERRI L. HILL, M.D.**

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  
DELEGATES**

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**The Maryland House of  
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[Terri.Hill@house.state.md.us](mailto:Terri.Hill@house.state.md.us)

March 6, 2024

**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 \(state.md.us\)](#)

# Written Testimony in Support of HB1355 -- Environm

Uploaded by: Tom Taylor

Position: FAV

## **Written Testimony in Support of HB1355: Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment**

I am writing in support of HB1355 to help address Maryland's waste management goals.

Mattresses and box springs are often discarded in landfills or illegally dumped, thereby depleting the limited amount of remaining landfill space in the state and placing a burden on local communities.

As very bulky products, these items take up a lot of available landfill space, and local communities often bear the costs of cleanup and disposal for illegal dumping.

Much of mattress material can be recycled if mattresses are broken down.

For these reasons, I am support of this legislation. It makes good sense to have a stewardship plan, avoid landfilling and illegal dumping, and recycle much of the material. This legislation supports Maryland's environmental stewardship goals and benefits local communities.

Please give a favorable report to HB1355. Thanks for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor  
11-G Laurel Hill Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-513-9524

# **Maryland Recycling Network Favorable with Amendmen**

Uploaded by: Kitty McIlroy

Position: FWA





March 4, 2024

**To: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Re: HB1355 Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment**

I'm Kitty McIlroy, President of Maryland Recycling Network (MRN), in support of HB1355 with amendments. I bring my experience managing mattress and box spring recycling contracts at the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. I am not speaking on behalf of the Authority.

Maryland Recycling Network members include municipal recycling managers, private sector and non-profit recyclers and individuals. We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs at the private sector and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

Maryland Recycling Network promotes sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's"), to ensure that the use of virgin materials is minimized, materials otherwise destined for disposal are reused or recycled and strong demand exists for buying products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

We thank Delegates Hill, Boyce, Fair, Foley, Guyton, Kaufman, Lehman, R. Long, McCaskill, Ruth, Simpson, Taveras, Terrasa, and Woods for sponsoring this Bill.

Bulky material such as mattresses and box springs are safety and fire hazards and "pose several challenges for landfills...They don't compact well, take up a lot of space, create flammable air pockets, and the springs tend to get tangled in [expensive] ...bulldozer compacting equipment, often damaging it," delaying solid waste operating activities due to costly repairs [[Cascade Alliance, The State of the Mattress Recycling Industry, Third Edition, February 2017](#)].

Mattress and box spring recycling is a manual labor-intensive process, that also requires costly equipment to further dismantle and bale its components. Costs associated with the collection of whole units, demanufacturing, marketing and further downstream transportation and processing, are not fully offset by marginal revenues received from the broken-down commodities. Thus, there will likely always be a net cost associated with mattress and box spring recycling.

Existing commodity markets in Maryland for mattress and box spring components include those for metal, foam and quilted ticking, about 85% of materials from all end-of-life units. [According to the Mattress Recycling Council](#), "steel mattress springs are sold as scrap metal...and mattress foam is mostly

**Maryland Recycling Network**  
c/o Mariner Management • PO Box 1640 • Columbia, MD 21044  
Phone: (443) 741-8740 • [www.MarylandRecyclingNetwork.org](http://www.MarylandRecyclingNetwork.org)

recycled into carpet padding.” This Bill would support the ability for recyclers to scale up and build stable downstream recycling markets for other mattress commodities such as wood, cotton, fabrics, felt and coconut fiber materials.

Since January 2022, just four Maryland jurisdictions have spent over \$400,000 on these recycling programs, while diverting over 1.7 million pounds of mattresses and box springs from disposal.

HB1355 is critical to supporting these recycling programs by taking this financial burden off local government and the public. It will allow Jurisdictions to divert much needed tax revenues to other critical public sector services. It will eliminate fees at collection sites and disincentivize these materials from ending up illegally dumped or in the disposal stream (which is currently the less expensive solid waste management choice for many, if not all entities, commercial and residential sectors included). This funding will grow local jobs and support current mattress recycling contracts run by local jurisdictions, while also supporting the expansion of new contracts for local jurisdictions that have had no funding available to kickstart this specific recycling program, especially in rural and underserved areas.

According to the Mattress Recycling Council, a [recent analysis](#) of the California program’s environmental footprint from collection to recycling shows 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.”

MRN’s proposed amendments, found in the attachment, incorporate language from SB370, passed in 2019, regarding local government provisions when enforcing mandatory recycling in office buildings. We believe similar enforcement language is necessary, regarding the mattress disposal ban language noted in this Bill. Other amendments are also minor and seek to clarify supporting local government control over their mattress recycling programs and maintain long term funding for these efforts, in addition to giving the Department of the Environment the ability to analyze and approve the impact of collection costs from private property before they are incorporated in the producer plans and reflected on a consumer fee.

Maryland already has a consumer fee for tire recycling. This Bill complements that law, to ensure difficult material is responsibly managed.

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact MRN via email [phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org](mailto:phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org), phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above.

Sincerely,



Kitty McIlroy  
President  
Maryland Recycling Network

**Maryland Recycling Network**  
c/o Mariner Management • PO Box 1640 • Columbia, MD 21044  
Phone: (443) 741-8740 • [www.MarylandRecyclingNetwork.org](http://www.MarylandRecyclingNetwork.org)

Attachments

<b>Mattress and Box Spring Recycling Pounds</b>				
	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024^	Total
Frederick County*	N/A	139,460	55,520	<b>194,980</b>
Howard County**	433,760	198,000	Unknown	<b>631,760</b>
Montgomery County***	N/A	500,440	113,160	<b>613,600</b>
Washington County****	47,600	234,640	24,180	<b>306,420</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>481,360</b>	<b>1,072,540</b>	<b>192,860</b>	<b>1,746,760</b>

Sources: Local Jurisdiction and Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Data

\*Frederick County's program initiated in July 2023

\*\*Howard County's program performed all of CY 2022 and CY 2023

\*\*\*Montgomery County's program initiated in May 2023

\*\*\*\*Washington County's program initiated in November 2022

^Includes all January and February 2024 data for Frederick County and Montgomery County

^Includes January and some February 2024 data for Washington County

<b>Mattress and Box Spring Recycling Costs to Jurisdictions</b>				
	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024^	Total
Frederick County*	N/A	\$52,297.50	\$20,820.00	<b>\$73,117.50</b>
Howard County**	\$26,500.00	\$16,000.00	Unknown	<b>\$42,500.00</b>
Montgomery County***	N/A	\$149,865.30	\$28,173.60	<b>\$178,038.90</b>
Washington County****	\$19,813.92	\$98,944.56	\$10,370.29	<b>\$129,128.77</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,313.92</b>	<b>\$317,107.36</b>	<b>\$59,363.89</b>	<b>\$422,785.17</b>

Sources: Local Jurisdiction and Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Data

\*Frederick County's program initiated in July 2023

\*\*Howard County's program performed all of CY 2022 and CY 2023

\*\*\*Montgomery County's program initiated in May 2023

\*\*\*\*Washington County's program initiated in November 2022

^Includes all January and February 2024 data for Frederick County and Montgomery County

^Includes January and some February 2024 data for Washington County

Proposed Amendments

- 1) Please consider incorporating language found in the office building recycling mandate ([SB370 Recycling – Office Buildings, passed in 2019](#)), regarding the enforcement of the mattress disposal ban. This will allow local government to enforce the law subject to their enforcement capabilities and discretion. Red text listed below acts as recommended amendments:

Page 1 of HB1355:

“FOR the purpose of prohibiting, on and after a certain date, a person from disposing of a mattress in a landfill, subject to a certain exception; prohibiting, on or after a certain date, a person from disposing of a mattress in an incinerator, subject to a certain exception; **authorizing certain local enforcement units, officers, and officials to conduct certain inspections; specifying that certain provisions of this Act do not affect the authority of a county or municipality to enact and enforce certain recycling requirements or to alter or exempt a person from certain recycling requirements under certain circumstances; specifying that certain provisions of this Act do not require a county to manage or enforce certain recycling activities within the boundaries of a municipality; providing that this Act may not be construed to preempt or prevail over any ordinance, resolution, law, or rule more stringent than this Act;**”

Page 9 of HB1355:

**“(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2029, A PERSON MAY NOT DISPOSE OF A MATTRESS IN A LANDFILL.**

**(2) A PERSON MAY DISPOSE OF A MATTRESS IN A LANDFILL IF THE MATTRESS IS DEEPLY CONTAMINATED, THE MATTRESS CANNOT BE RENOVATED, AND NO PARTS OF THE MATTRESS CAN BE RECYCLED.**

**(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2029, A PERSON MAY NOT DISPOSE OF A MATTRESS IN AN INCINERATOR.**

**(2) A PERSON MAY DISPOSE OF A MATTRESS IN AN INCINERATOR IF THE MATTRESS IS DEEPLY CONTAMINATED, THE MATTRESS CANNOT BE RENOVATED, AND NO PARTS OF THE MATTRESS CAN BE RECYCLED.**

**(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE AUTHORITY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY TO:**

**(I) ENACT AND ENFORCE RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING CIVIL PENALTIES, FOR MATTRESS RECYCLING AND/OR DISPOSAL;**

**(II) ALTER OR EXEMPT A PERSON FROM RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1. DUE TO SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE PERSON IN AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY FOR AN ALTERATION OR EXEMPTION; OR**
- 2. IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS THAT AFFECT THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY.**

**(3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY TO MANAGE OR ENFORCE THE RECYCLING ACTIVITIES OF A PERSON THAT IS OPERATING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THAT COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY”**

**(D) A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY REQUIRE A PERSON THAT PROVIDES FOR RECYCLING OF MATTRESSES TO REPORT TO THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY ON THOSE RECYCLING ACTIVITIES IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY.**

**(E) THE RECYCLING REQUIRED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECYCLING PLAN REQUIRED UNDER § 9–1703 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE PERSON IS OPERATING MATTRESS RECYCLING**

**(F) AN ENFORCEMENT UNIT, OFFICER, OR OFFICIAL OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY CONDUCT INSPECTIONS TO ENFORCE THIS SECTION.**

**(G) This Act may not be construed to preempt or prevail over any ordinance, resolution, law, or rule more stringent than this Act.**

- 2) Please consider clarifying that the Plan/Producers may also execute agreements with local governments and utilize their already procured mattress recycling contracts. Many local governments will want to maintain control over their mattress recycling programs, by managing their own procurements and selecting their own mattress recyclers, while receiving the reimbursement under the program. Red text listed below acts as recommended amendments:

Page 12 of HB1355:

**“(II) NEGOTIATING AND EXECUTING AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING AGREEMENTS WITH EXISTING RECYCLING PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS, TO COLLECT, TRANSPORT, REUSE, RECYCLE, PROCESS FOR MATERIALS RECOVERY, AND DISPOSE OF MATTRESSES.”**

- 3) In order to have small City/Municipality representation, please consider adding the following language in. Small Cities/Municipalities tend to have different experiences (and often more difficult experiences when implementing and funding recycling programs) compared to Counties, and only MACo is included on the Advisory Board in this bill. Red text listed below acts as recommended amendments:

Page 20 of HB1355:

**“(x) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE;”**

- 4) Many recycling programs measure materials collected by weight, not volume. Please consider the red text listed below, as recommended amendments:

Page 17 of HB1355:

**“(II) THE AMOUNT [VOLUME] AND TYPE OF MATTRESSES COLLECTED IN THE STATE SORTED BY TYPE OF COLLECTION SITE;**

**(III) THE AMOUNT [VOLUME] AND TYPE OF MATTRESSES COLLECTED IN THE STATE BY METHODS OF DISPOSITION, INCLUDING REUSE, RECYCLING, AND OTHER METHODS OF PROCESSING OR DISPOSAL, WHICH INCLUDES AN ACCOUNTING OF THE AMOUNT [VOLUME] OF MATTRESSES COLLECTED IN THE STATE FOR EACH COUNTY IN THE STATE”**

- 5) While MRN supports the intention, there are still concerns that the curbside collection portion (from private property) that is to be funded under HB1355 (pages 12 -13) could make the consumer fees prohibitively expensive, so MRN recommends this portion of the Bill include language for the Department of the Environment to evaluate potential collection costs from private property and this feasibility after the initial collection sites are established under the Plan, as part of a Phase II effort.

MRN feels that by giving the Department of the Environment the ability to approve this portion of the Plan after the initial program is established statewide that it will ensure a complete financial impact review is considered prior to any decision being made, and ensure a reasonable consumer fee is still in place.

- 6) MRN’s interpretation of HB1355 is that it is to fund not only the implementation of a statewide mattress recycling program, but also the continued operation of the program indefinitely. Thus, please consider the red text listed below, as recommended amendments:

Page 14 of HB1355:

**“(7) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENT MAY NOT EXCEED THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING AND OPERATING THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM”**

**“(8) (I) THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENT SHALL BE EVALUATED BY AN INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDITOR, AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, TO ENSURE THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING AND OPERATING THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ARE COVERED BUT NOT EXCEEDED.”**

**“(9) MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENTS MAY BE USED ONLY TO IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.”**

**“(10) IF [WHEN] THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM BECOMES PROFITABLE BASED ON ANY PRODUCTS IT PRODUCES FROM THE RECYCLED MATERIAL, ASSESSMENT FEES SHALL BE PHASED OUT, BUT SHALL BE PHASED BACK IN IF THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IS NO LONGER PROFITABLE.”**

Page 15 of HB1355:

**“(I) A PRODUCER OR RETAILER MAY NOT SELL OR OFFER FOR SALE A BRAND OF MATTRESS TO ANY PERSON IN THE STATE, UNLESS THE PRODUCER OF THE BRAND OR A REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF WHICH THE PRODUCER IS A MEMBER IS [IMPLEMENTING] OPERATING AN APPROVED MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM”**

Page 16 of HB1355:

**“(II) INFORMATION THAT NOTIFIES CONSUMERS THAT AN ASSESSMENT TO COVER THE COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING AND OPERATING THE PROGRAM IS INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASE PRICE OF ALL MATTRESSES SOLD IN THE STATE.”**

**“(G) A POSTCONSUMER MATTRESS COLLECTION SITE THAT IS IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN MAY NOT CHARGE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE [DISPOSAL] MANAGEMENT OF MATTRESSES WHEN MATTRESSES ARE OFFERED FOR DISPOSAL, REUSE, OR RECYCLING UNDER AN APPROVED MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

Page 18 of HB1355:

**“(II) DETERMINE WHETHER THE PROGRAM IS BEING IMPLEMENTED AND OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN APPROVED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.”**

Page 19 of HB1355:

**“(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD IS TO ADVISE ON THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.”**

# **FWA\_ISPA\_Written Testimony**

Uploaded by: Ryan Trainer

Position: FWA



March 6, 2024

Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 1355: Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

ISPA represents mattress manufacturers, as well as those that provide components and services to mattress companies. ISPA supports product stewardship efforts and has taken steps to improve the long-term environmental sustainability of the mattress industry's operations and products. These efforts include creating a non-profit entity called the Mattress Recycling Council or MRC, which has operated successful mattress recycling programs in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island for the past nine years.

ISPA agrees with the goals expressed in HB 1355 to responsibly manage discarded mattresses. Nevertheless, we urge the committee to make several changes to HB 1355 to address problems that we have identified based on our experience in operating existing and successful mattress recycling programs in other states.

By way of background, the existing mattress recycling programs that MRC has developed and administered are funded by a point of sale recycling fee that the retailer collects from the consumer and remitted to MRC, subject to the state's oversight. MRC uses the fees to contract with third parties to collect, transport and process mattresses discarded in the state and to fund education and outreach to consumers. This provides for no-cost and accessible state-wide opportunities for residents and businesses to discard their used mattresses. Through this model, MRC recycles over 1.7 million units annually and has recycled over 13 million units total over its nine years of operations. The mattress industry designed MRC so that its activities can be expanded relatively easily to additional states that enact legislation consistent with the existing programs. Based on our initial review of HB 1355 and the mattress industry's experience in implementing other recycling programs, our suggested changes to the bill are as follows:

### **1. Regional Cooperation and Cross Border Concerns**

Maryland borders four other states and the District of Columbia. A number of significant urban areas are located in these other jurisdictions close to Maryland's border. As a result, any recycling program that would be funded by a fee on retail mattress sales will run two significant risks:

- a. that consumers will leave Maryland to buy their mattresses, and
- b. that waste haulers outside of Maryland will attempt to discard the mattresses they collect in Maryland.

Additionally, the program could become both underfunded and overwhelmed with volume. For these reasons, ISPA thinks that a regional approach to mattress recycling is appropriate for this area. Such an approach would allow for better economies of scale in collecting, transporting and recycling mattresses and funding from all of the states in the Mid-Atlantic region.

### **2. Convenience Criteria**

ISPA urges the Committee to reconsider the convenience criteria proposed in HB 1355 and to confirm whether that standard is appropriate for collecting and recycling used mattresses in Maryland. We understand this standard was adopted from the paint stewardship bill. Although this standard may be appropriate for collecting paint, it may not be for mattresses, given that paint and mattresses are very different products.

Further, HB 1355 requires the stewardship organization premium pick up services for mattresses from private property. MRC works with existing infrastructure but does not offer this type of collection option in any of our current states. While we support curbside bulky item pick up of mattresses and encourage counties to continue that service where available, providing these services statewide could increase costs 5-fold.

### **3. Fee language**

ISPA recommends some changes to the fee language, including:

- a. Fee should cover but not exceed the costs of operating and administering the program and maintain a financial reserve sufficient to operate the program over a multi-year period.

- b. MRC experience with the fee remitted by the retailer rather than others in the supply chain is cleaner and allows for uniformity for retailers operating in Maryland and other MRC program states or future MRC program states.

#### **4. Advisory Board**

ISPA understands and appreciates the interest in transparency and stakeholder involvement but believes an advisory board is unnecessary to achieve these objectives. MRC depends on stakeholder feedback and input during program plan development and implementation. MRC seeks to engage all stakeholders, not just those listed in the bill elevated to the Advisory Board, to build a convenient and effective statewide mattress recycling program. MRC recommends that any advisory board clearly disclose any potential financial, personal, or business conflicts of interest and adhere to relevant open meetings rules and regulations.

#### **5. Certain unrecyclable discarded mattresses**

There are certain used mattresses, for example, those mixed with putrescible solid waste in the back of a trash compacter, those infested with bedbugs, heavily contaminated with bodily fluids or otherwise pose a public health risk that cannot be handled by workers at mattress recycling facilities. Those mattresses must be disposed of and should be managed, as they are now, through the existing solid waste stream. The bill should address these units as non-program units and allow for their safe and proper disposal.

To conclude my testimony, ISPA looks forward to working with Maryland as it tackles the issue of mattress recycling. As an organization that operates these programs on a day-to-day basis, MRC knows how to manage and recycle discarded mattresses efficiently and effectively. For this reason, ISPA and MRC are prepared to work with the Committee, bill sponsor and interested stakeholders to expand MRC's successful network to Maryland.

Sincerely,

Ryan Trainer  
VP, Policy and Government Affairs  
International Sleep Products Association

**2024.03.04\_PSI Testimony\_MD\_HB1355\_Mattresses\_FNL.**

Uploaded by: Suna Bayrakal

Position: FWA



Scott Cassel  
**Chief Executive Officer/Founder**

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*VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation*

Joe Rotella  
*RI Resource Recovery Corporation*

Christina Seibert  
*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, IL*

**Honorary Director**

Walter Willis  
*Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL*

Scott Klag  
*Retired, formerly Metro, OR*

March 4, 2024

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Regina Boyce, Vice Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for HB 1355, An act concerning mattress stewardship program**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of HB 1355, which will create a statewide mattress stewardship program for Maryland with sustainable funding from producers.

Fewer than five percent of mattresses in the U.S. are recycled annually even though up to 90 percent of mattress components can be recycled and used to make steel, carpet padding, animal bedding, and mulch. Unfortunately, much of this bulky waste currently ends up in landfills or is illegally dumped, imposing significant management costs on local governments and taxpayers. HB 1355 will improve collection convenience, increase the number of mattresses recycled, create jobs (including for those with barriers to employment), and reduce the financial burden on local governments, which currently manage these materials in the absence of a stewardship program.

California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have reaped the benefits of their mattress stewardship laws, which were enacted in 2013 as a result of the Product Stewardship Institute's (PSI's) facilitation of a model EPR bill with input from government and industry stakeholders. PSI has since helped develop next generation mattress stewardship legislation in Oregon, which enacted a law in 2022 that is expected to be implemented in 2024.

Since the first program launched in 2015, the three original state programs have recycled more than 10 million mattresses collected from hundreds of cities and towns, including at solid waste facilities and other entities such as retailers, hotels, and universities. Legislated stewardship programs provide a continuous flow of high-quality material to mattress renovators, recyclers, and manufacturing operations, allowing long-term investments in local recycling and manufacturing facilities that use recycled mattress components as a feedstock for new product manufacturing.

**In the first year of its program, Connecticut:**

- Recycled 63.5 percent of the state's discarded mattresses, an increase from only 8.7 percent recycled in the prior year;
- Recycled 2,800 tons of steel, foam, and other materials;
- Saved 1.7 million cubic feet of landfill space; and
- Saved greenhouse gas emissions comparable to annual emissions from 875 passenger vehicles.

**HB 1355 contains best practices found in all successful U.S. stewardship laws, including:**

- Plan developed by producers that provides them with flexibility to implement a consistent program;
- Plan reevaluation and revision requirements to improve the program based on lessons learned and if performance goals are not being met;
- Minimum convenience standards to increase collection;
- Performance goals that increase recycling and help drive program effectiveness;
- Education and outreach to raise awareness of the program;
- Annual reporting and transparency;
- Penalties for noncompliance with the law;
- Advisory board to provide multi-stakeholder input into the program and make program-related decisions with broader stakeholder interests in mind; and
- Funding for the state to oversee and enforce the law.

**PSI recommends the following changes to strengthen the bill:**

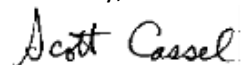
- Provide financial compensation to collection sites for their costs of collection to increase convenience.
- Require that the stewardship assessment per mattress be differentiated based on the actual cost to the recycling system rather than be uniform for all mattresses.

Differentiated fees are more equitable – those buying mattresses that cost less to recycle (e.g., a simple mattress) pay less than those buying mattresses that cost more to recycle (e.g., large, multi-material mattresses with electronic gadgets). These fees should also be lower for mattresses that contain post-consumer recycled content, are toxic-free, and have verified lower environmental impacts associated with mattress production (e.g., reduced energy and water use). At a minimum, PSI suggests that the state oversight agency conduct a study (paid for by industry) to be completed within one year of bill enactment that would recommend how such a system could be put in place. These are standard features in other US legislated stewardship programs.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national policy expert and consulting nonprofit that pioneered product stewardship in the United States along with a coalition of hundreds of state and local government officials. Since 2000, PSI has worked with numerous others to develop producer responsibility policies for many of the 136 such laws enacted for 18 industry sectors in 33 states.

I urge you to **support HB 1355, with amendments**, for the financial and environmental health of Maryland's economy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 513-3954, or [Scott@ProductStewardship.US](mailto:Scott@ProductStewardship.US).

Sincerely,



Scott Cassel  
Chief Executive Officer/Founder

**2024-HB1355-UNFav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

## HB1355 – UNFAVORABLE

Nelda Fink

MD District 32

Has a study been done analyzing the cost for the recycling of mattresses as described in this bill?

This bill creates a recycling process that will be a labor intensive task and as a result will be expensive. The only recyclable material in the end will be the steel springs which will not be reusable because that's why the mattress has been discarded. The steel springs will only be good as a recycled material and today the price for recycled steel is .06 per pound. People will not purchase a re-used mattress because it will have lost the necessary and required support for proper back / spinal column health. That support cannot be restored except through new steel springs which will ultimately lead to a new mattress.

Granted the mattresses could be broken down better to decompose properly in the land fill, this bill does not cover this option.

This bill will simply create another recycling program that will fail because of the expense just like the plastics and co-mingled recyclable materials program has.

100% OPPOSE this bill and ask an unfavorable report as it does not solve any problem in a cost effective manner.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink



**HB1355\_MRA\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Price

Position: UNF

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



## **HB1355 Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment Environment and Transportation Committee March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Background:** HB1355 would require sellers of mattresses in Maryland to establish and implement a mattress disposal program which includes adding a fee to the sale of all mattresses in the state.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Alliance continues to have many concerns with the establishment of product stewardship programs. These programs set a dangerous precedent for adding additional fees onto the cost of any items that are deemed difficult to dispose of or potentially hazardous in any way. Our concerns with stewardship programs and with the mattress stewardship proposal are as follows:

1. The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) acts as the umbrella organization for a coalition of nonprofit entities that seek to establish stewardship programs for a long list of everyday items including batteries, textiles, and “junk mail”. This stewardship approach to reducing waste, if ultimately expanded to apply to full list of items that are targeted by PSI’s partners, will have a direct financial impact on all consumers in Maryland.
2. Most jurisdictions in Maryland already have collections or drop-off options for unusual trash items or hazardous waste, funded through taxpayer dollars. Though proponents of stewardship programs claim that local waste management costs will decrease over time as more jurisdictions participate in the program, it is unlikely that Marylanders will see a corresponding decrease in their local taxes and waste disposal prices. This will ultimately mean increased household costs across the state as citizens must pay new assessments on particular items in addition to their local taxes and fees.
3. Just as we saw with other stewardship programs considered by this Committee, the proposed mattress program has serious ethical implications regarding gatekeeping the market on items that are deemed difficult to dispose of. Stewardship programs in other states have been supported by manufacturers who would see that such programs eliminate their competition in stores by banning manufacturers who do not participate in the program. Such behavior is unethical, and retailers across the country who operate in jurisdictions that have passed similar proposals have confirmed that the programs make it difficult for companies to remain competitive.

For these reasons, we must urge an unfavorable report on HB930. Thank you for your consideration.