



House Bill 858

Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

MACo Position:

LETTER OF INFORMATION

Date: April 7, 2025

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) offers a **LETTER OF INFORMATION** on HB 858. The bill would establish the Mattress Stewardship Program within the state of Maryland. The program is designed to shift mattress disposal and recycling responsibility to manufacturers.

HB 858 would create a statewide Mattress Stewardship Program. Instead of landfills, the program would divert mattresses to recycling operations run by mattress producers. This diversion would reduce waste and create employment opportunities within Maryland. Financing would be provided through the Mattress Stewardship Assessment, which effectively amounts to a fee on the sale of all mattresses within the state. Producers would be charged with establishing the necessary recycling infrastructure using funds from the assessment. The bill also, following an implementation period, outright bans the disposal of mattresses within landfills and drastically limits their incineration.

Counties presently serve as the main processor of discarded mattresses, often disposing of them within landfills or through incineration. The Mattress Stewardship Program is incredibly innovative in its approach, philosophy, and design. By shifting the disposal responsibility from taxpayer-funded operations to producer-run facilities, local resources could be freed up and reinvested into other essential services.

Counties support the direction proposed by the bill, but have concerns regarding effects of uncertain elements implementation – any pieces of the envisioned disposal system being missing at the time of a ban on landfill disposal could create major complications. Specifically, pages 9 – 10, lines 22-2, would take away counties' only tool to dispose of mattresses. *Should the program falter, counties will be left with little recourse to dispose of the mattresses.*

The idea of a producer-run mattress recycling program is an innovative and worthy endeavor. Counties are concerned with the blanket ban on disposal and ask the Committee to reconsider these provisions. MACo stands ready to partner with the Committee and others to address this concern and ensure the legislation is implementable.