

TERRI L. HILL, M.D.
Legislative District 12
Baltimore and Howard Counties

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Estates and Trusts

Insurance



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegate
6 Bladen Street, Room 215
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3378 · 301-858-3378
800-492-7122 Ext. 3378
Fax 410-841-3197 · 301-858-3197
Terri.Hill@house.state.md.us

February 26 2021

SUPPORT

HB1146: Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattresses and Box Springs

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I'm here to request your support for **HB 1146**, with amendments, which would close a hole in our environmental sustainability plan by finally addressing end-of-life management of mattresses and box springs.

In four of the last five sessions, I have brought legislation before this committee with the goal of reducing the number of mattresses and box springs going to landfills, incinerators or scattered waste through establishment of a State mattress waste stream management plan. This committee passed mattress stewardship bills in two of those years, and in 2019, legislation passed the chamber, only to stall in senate committee because the compromises required to get it through the House made it a bill that, according to the Senate Education, Health and Environment Committee chairman, "didn't do anything."

Senator Pinsky was right. The bill we passed did not establish a **Mattress Stewardship Program**, create a taskforce to study how such plans are being successfully implemented in other states, introduce a gradual ban on incineration and landfill disposal of mattresses and box spring, or require local jurisdictions to include mattresses in their waste management plan, as the previous bills had sought to do. It simply required the Department of the Environment to provide local jurisdictions "encouragement, information, and examples relating to certain programs that divert mattresses and box springs from disposal in landfills and incinerators and that recycle or reuse mattresses and box springs".

Considering that mattresses and box springs are among the bulkiest consumer products sent to landfills - taking up substantial space and presenting challenges to the machinery used in waste management, that in Ocean City alone there are 9,500 hotel bed, according to the official city website, with hotels changing mattresses as often as every 4-5 years, and that Maryland Department of the Environment in 2017 estimated Maryland's landfill capacity to be 31 years according to Department of Legislative Services 2017 Solid Waste Management Report, I hope you will agree that this is a king size problem we are obligated to put to bed.

As introduced, **HB1146** would have required each local jurisdiction to develop and implement a mattress waste management plan with gradual reduction in landfill and incineration by 90% over 10 years, and encouragement of plans that favor disaggregation, recycling and reuse.

The amendment I offer, and hope you will accept, would instead establish the Maryland Mattress Stewardship Program, a funding source, and a ban on landfill disposal by 2026. The Program would be based on a manufacturers plan to be submitted by 2022 and implemented by 2023 that would

- minimize public sector involvement in, and financial responsibility for, the management of mattress

disposal;

- promote mattress reuse and recycling;
- include agreements to collect, transport, reuse, recycle, process for resource recovery, and dispose of mattresses;
- provide for convenient and available collection of mattresses

If the committee would, to the section of the sponsor amendment banning mattress landfill disposal by 2026, add a ban on their commercial and non-commercial incineration, we will establish diversion collection as the only acceptable end-of life disposal option, as dumping is already illegal. Along with the good work we are poised to do with respect such actions as creation of downstream markets for recyclables, the directives of this bill will spur innovation, business enterprise and job creation. The amended bill is based on effective stewardship programs in other states, pending Oregon legislation, and Delegate Regina Boyce's terrific HB127 Maryland Paint Stewardship legislation the House passed this week.

Amended, **HB1146** would allow for a number of stewardship options including public, private and industry run programs, and would promote the kind of small business entrepreneurial models being successfully implemented around the country that can offer disadvantaged youth, the homeless, formerly incarcerated individuals and other economically marginalized the opportunity of livable wage employment with opportunity to learn job skills and gain certifications that are currently in demand.

Support **HB1146** so tonight, you can sleep better knowing that your mattress will provide local communities with social and economic developmental opportunities instead of adding to the costly, environmentally detrimental, space in landfills or contributing to the air pollution through incineration.

I ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. P. ...", written in a cursive style.