



Howard County, Maryland

Testimony: HB1226 Environment – Office of Recycling - Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

Hearing Date: Mar 9, 2022

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Hill

Committee: Environment and Transportation, Economic Matters

Submitting: Less Plastic Please

Position: Favorable with Amendments

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County, MD grassroots organization representing more than 200 advocates and was instrumental in passing the plastic-bag-fee and plastic reduction act in our county. We support the Mattress Stewardship Program with amendments.

Howard County does provide a mattress recycling program at the Residents' Convenience Center at Alpha Ridge Landfill, but this program is limited to only those residents who can transport a mattress in a large vehicle. In addition, Howard County residents who do not live near the landfill can travel up to 40 miles round trip to recycle their mattress. Even with these major inconveniences, residents in Howard County do at least have a limited option of recycling their mattresses and reducing landfill waste.

Having a mattress stewardship program in Maryland would create significant environmental and economic benefits and offset the burden and costs away from those few municipalities that offer a limited recycling program. Diverting mattresses from our landfills and incinerators lowers the public health risk of the flame retardants contained in many mattresses entering the atmosphere and moves Maryland towards a Zero Waste future.

We have concerns that HB1226 currently bans mattresses from being landfilled entirely, but says that mattresses which cannot be recycled due to contamination or other health and safety reasons may be incinerated. Incinerating contaminated mattresses may risk releasing those harmful contaminants into the atmosphere causing significant health hazards. We hope that an alternative to incinerating non-recyclable mattresses can be determined.

We urge a favorable report with amendments.

[Less Plastic Please](#)

Submitted by Liz Feighner

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