



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

March 09, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 930 - Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed House Bill 930 and would like to provide the following information. House Bill 930 would establish a Mattress Stewardship Program (Program) and Mattress Stewardship Advisory Board. The Program would address the collection and disposal of mattresses and would be planned and implemented by producers of mattresses or a representative organization. A retailer would be prohibited from selling a mattress unless its producer is a member of an approved Program. It also prohibits disposing of a mattress in an incinerator and limits mattress landfilling.

MDE supports efforts to divert more mattresses, that are largely recyclable, from disposal. Currently, under HB 164/SB 116 of 2021, MDE is required to promote the development of markets for recycled materials and recycled products in Maryland, evaluate the availability of certain markets, and identify Maryland businesses that use recycled materials. In an initial stakeholder meeting with interested parties regarding the implementation of the recycling markets law, promoting the recycling and reuse of postconsumer mattresses was identified by stakeholders as an area of focus.

MDE has many required duties under HB 930, however the bill does not provide full funding or positions for MDE to carry out this work. While the bill provides for fees to cover MDE's costs for stewardship plan and annual report review and associated compliance oversight costs, it is unclear if these fees would fund the other tasks in the bill, some of which would likely occur prior to the submission of the stewardship plan.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 930 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-453-3235 or by e-mail at gabrielle.leach@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach
Deputy Director
Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations

cc: The Honorable Terri Hill
Tyler Abbott, Director, Land and Materials Administration