

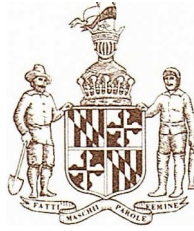
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Howard County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees
Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 9, 2023

SUPPORT

HB0930: Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattresses Stewardship Program – Establishment

Dear Chair Barve, Chair Wilson, Vice-chair Stein, Vice-chair Crosby, and Joint Committee Members,

HB930 improves our environmental sustainability plan by establishing a state-wide mattress stewardship program. To meet Maryland's ecologic sustainability goals, the proposed program mirrors successful pilots in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and California, with modifications from lessons learned since their introduction 9 years ago. The bill allows enhanced opportunity for incorporation of the Divert, Reduce, Re-use, Recycle (D3R) strategy effectively employed for over twenty years by St. Vincent De Paul Society in Oregon and California and others. D3R is a profitable approach to stewardship that creates good paying jobs for the traditional hard to employ. It closely mirrors the Oregon Mattress Stewardship legislation enacted in 2022.

The goal is 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. 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.

HB930 establishes the Maryland Mattress Stewardship Program, a Mattress Stewardship Advisory Board representing communities and stakeholders, an auditing and reporting process, a funding source, and phase in a partial ban on disposal in landfills, with exception for the limited number of deeply contaminated mattresses that cannot be sanitized, reused, recycled, or reclaimed because of health concerns, and a ban on incineration by 2028. The Program would be based on a manufacturers plan to be submitted by 2024 and implemented within a year of approval. The bill would

- promote mattress reuse and recycling;
- include agreements to collect, transport, reuse, recycle, and process for materials recovery, reclamation, and disposal; and
- provide for convenient and available collection of mattresses.

Support **HB930** so you can sleep better knowing that your mattress will provide local communities with social and economic developmental opportunities instead of taking up costly, environmentally detrimental, scarce landfill capacity or discharging incineration pollutants into the atmosphere. I ask for a favorable report so we can put this problem to bed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".