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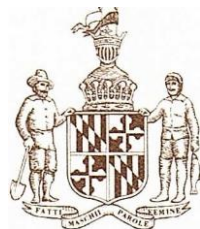
Howard County

**Health and Government Operations
Committee**

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF
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March 5, 2025

SUPPORT

HB858 - Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattress Stewardship Program – Establishment

Chair Korman, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Boyce, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Environment and Transportation and the Economic Matters Committees,

HB858 seeks to establish a Mattress Stewardship Program in Maryland. This program will address the pressing issue of mattress disposal in our state and pave the way for a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to waste management. Every year, millions of mattresses end up in landfills or incinerators, posing significant environmental and health hazards. These mattresses take up valuable landfill space, contribute to air and water pollution, and contain harmful chemicals that can leach into our ecosystem. Moreover, the inefficient disposal of mattresses creates logistical challenges and adds to the financial burden of waste management. By emphasizing disassembly, reuse, and recycling the legislation is in line with industry supported and environmentally sustainable solutions that successfully implemented in other states over the past 10 years. It will

1. Reduce landfill congestion and extend existing disposal capacity.
2. The available capacity of landfill space is 49,222,941 tons with 2,283,852 tons being disposed of in CY22 which equates to over 21 years of available landfill capacity in Maryland.
3. Minimize air and water pollution associated with mattress disposal.
4. Promote the recycling of valuable materials found in mattresses, such as steel, foam, cotton, and wood.
5. Support the growth of local recycling industries and create job opportunities in waste management and recycling sectors.
6. Align with Maryland's commitment to sustainable materials management and environmental stewardship.

, **HB858** would:

- Prohibit the disposal of mattresses in landfills and incinerators, with certain exceptions.
- Require producers of mattresses sold in Maryland to submit a plan for a Mattress Stewardship Program to the Department of the Environment.
- Establish an assessment on mattresses sold in the state to cover program costs.
- Require retailers to provide consumers with information about the Mattress Stewardship Program.
- Mandate the Office of Recycling to review and approve program plans and annual reports.
- Require producers and retailers to add the assessment to the cost of mattresses sold in Maryland.
- Implement the Mattress Stewardship Program within a specified timeframe after plan approval.
- Prohibit the sale of certain mattresses under specified circumstances after plan approval.

- Establish the Mattress Stewardship Advisory Board.
- Authorize cooperation with other states to further program objectives.
- Direct the Department of the Environment to adopt measures for equitable recycling and waste management, promoting environmental justice.

In conclusion, **HB858** presents a comprehensive producer responsibility solution to Maryland's mattress waste stream management. The implementation dates area pushed out to allow for enactment of other priority waste management legislation in this session with sequential, rather than simultaneous implementation.

I urge a favorable report of **HB858**.

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