
TRASH FREE**MARYLAND**

Bill: HB 984 Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment
Committee: Environment & Transportation; Economic Matters
Hearing Date: February 27, 2026
Position: Support

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committees:

HB 984 would establish a mattress stewardship program in Maryland to ensure safe management and recycling of mattresses sold throughout the state. Currently an unknown number of mattresses are dumped illegally. We see them dumped along the sides of our roads and on the edges of our parks and neighborhoods or discarded in parking lots. Many organizations do not accept donations of used mattresses. Bulky dumped mattresses are difficult to manage when encountered during community cleanups and they can become an eyesore that attracts further dumping activity. Discarded mattresses are also costly for local governments to collect and manage due to their relative bulk and shape and the space they take up in trucks or landfills.

We enthusiastically support stewardship models with public oversight for difficult-to-manage or problematic materials like mattresses. This model can alleviate the financial burden of waste management currently borne by local governments as well as free up local resources for other programs. This program is designed to minimize public sector financial responsibility for the management of mattress disposal while ensuring more Marylanders have convenient access to collection and drop-off points for mattress recycling. The program is also intended to support downstream market development for mattress components to increase recycling and decrease disposal. Many mattress components are recyclable once they reach a recycler. This bill will help bridge the gap between the consumer with an old mattress and a processor who can take the mattress apart and sort its components for recycling.

We also appreciate that HB984 calls for an evaluation to evaluate the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of the program. Program evaluation is a best practice to ensure a program is still achieving its goals and to identify opportunities to improve a program's efficiency and impact.

Four other states already have mattress stewardship programs; Maryland should be the next state to use this approach to sustainably fund and increase mattress recycling.

We commend and thank Delegate Hill for leadership on this issue and respectfully urge a favorable report on HB984.

Contact:

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