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HB 0984

February 27, 2026

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 984: Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 984.

HB 984 aims to establish a Mattress Stewardship Program to manage mattress disposal and recycling. The bill requires mattress producers, or their representative organizations, to submit a plan to the Department of the Environment detailing the establishment of a Mattress Stewardship Program. The program would outline methods for mattress collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal, ensuring environmentally sound management practices. The bill also prohibits disposing of mattresses in landfills or incinerators, with certain exceptions.

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) has been facing significant challenges related to mattress disposal at the Quarantine Road Landfill (QRL). The improper disposal of mattresses has led to persistent leachate issues, requiring extensive remediation efforts that cost the City approximately \$70,000 in 2023 alone. Additionally, due to their low weight-to-volume ratio, mattresses fail to generate sufficient revenue through tipping fees, further straining landfill operations.

Currently, the City bears the full financial burden of collecting and disposing of mattresses. Illegal dumping of mattresses in alleys and on sidewalks creates quality-of-life issues for residents and requires significant staff time from both DPW and the Department of Housing and Community Development. While DPW has implemented restrictions at the landfill and launched a mattress

recycling pilot program, these efforts have already cost \$21,600, with projected costs exceeding \$650,000 over three years. With the landfill estimated to have only three to five years of operational life remaining, every effort to divert mattresses from disposal helps preserve this critical capacity.

HB 984 would strengthen and expand local efforts by creating a producer responsibility program that shifts end-of-life management costs to manufacturers and retailers. This approach would reduce the financial burden on the City while significantly advancing mattress recycling.

It is for these reasons that the Baltimore City Administration requests a **favorable** report on HB 984.