



House Bill 1226

Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Environment and Transportation and
Economic Matters Committees

Date: March 9, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1226 WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill would establish the Mattress Stewardship Program within the state of Maryland. The program is designed to shift mattress disposal and recycling responsibility to manufacturers.

HB 1226 would create a statewide Mattress Stewardship Program. Instead of landfills, the program would divert mattresses to recycling operations run by mattress producers. This diversion would reduce waste and create employment opportunities within Maryland. Financing would be provided through the Mattress Stewardship Assessment, which effectively amounts to a fee on the sale of all mattresses within the state. Producers would be charged with establishing the necessary recycling infrastructure using funds from the assessment. The bill also, following an implementation period, outright bans the disposal of mattresses within landfills and drastically limits their incineration.

Counties presently serve as the main processor of discarded mattresses, often disposing of them within landfills or through incineration. The Mattress Stewardship Program is incredibly innovative in its approach, philosophy, and design. By shifting the disposal responsibility from taxpayer-funded operations to producer-run facilities, local resources could be freed up and reinvested into other essential services. Counties support the direction proposed by the bill, but have concerns regarding effects of any rocky implementation – any pieces of the envisioned disposal system being missing at the time of a ban on landfill disposal could create major complications. A stakeholder study could still allow Maryland to reach the timetable envisioned by the bill as introduced. **Therefore, counties urge the Committee to convene a workgroup to review the ideas within HB 1226 and report back to the General Assembly before the next regular legislative session.**

The idea of a producer-run mattress recycling program is innovative and worthy of further study. The bill's timetable would afford a working group as a first step. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to provide a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for HB 1226.