



Senate Bill 603

Mattress Stewardship Program - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT WITH
AMENDMENTS**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: February 24, 2026

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 603 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This 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.

SB 603 creates 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 uncertain element implementation – any pieces of the envisioned disposal system being missing at the time of a ban on landfill disposal could create major complications. Specifically, pages 9-10, lines 29-11, would take away counties' only tools to dispose of mattresses. *Should the program falter, counties will be left with little recourse to dispose of the mattresses.* Counties respectfully request an amendment providing safeguards should this regrettable scenario come to fruition.

The idea of a producer-run mattress recycling program is an innovative and worthy endeavor. Counties are concerned with the blanket ban on disposal and ask the Committee to reconsider these provisions. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to issue SB 603 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report. Proposed amendment language is included on the following page.

MACo Amendment for SB 603

Clarifies that if a county determines the Mattress Stewardship Program is not adequately functioning within its jurisdiction, the county may continue to landfill or incinerate mattresses until such time as service is adequately restored.

On page 10, after line 11, insert,

“(C) THE REQUIREMENTS IN (A) AND (B) DO NOT APPLY TO A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DETERMINES THAT THE MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IS NOT ADEQUATELY FUNCTIONING WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION AND THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER REASONABLE MEANS OF DISPOSAL EXCEPT FOR DISPOSAL IN A LANDFILL OR INCINERATION.”.