

HOUSE BILL 502

M3

9lr2100

By: **Delegates Hill, Bagnall, Chang, Crutchfield, Fennell, Gaines, Hettleman, Jalisi, Lehman, and Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Office of Recycling – Mattresses and Box Springs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of Recycling within the Department of the
4 Environment to provide to local communities certain encouragement, information,
5 and examples relating to certain programs that divert mattresses and box springs
6 from disposal in landfills and incinerators and that recycle or reuse mattresses and
7 box springs; requiring the Office, in coordination with the Maryland Environmental
8 Service, to include in a certain report certain information relating to the progress
9 made in the State on diverting mattresses and box springs from disposal in landfills
10 and incinerators; and generally relating to the disposal of mattresses and box springs
11 in the State.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Environment
14 Section 9–1702(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Environment
19 Section 9–1702(d) and (e)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

22 Preamble

23 WHEREAS, In the United States, it is estimated that approximately 20 million
24 mattress units are disposed of annually; and

25 WHEREAS, Mattresses and box springs use limited landfill space, create flammable

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 air pockets, damage equipment used at landfills, contribute to air pollution when
2 incinerated, contain nonbiodegradable synthetic foam and fibers and hazardous
3 flame-retardant chemicals that can leach into the drinking water, and contribute to
4 roadside litter when dumped illegally; and

5 WHEREAS, Mattresses and box springs pose practical challenges inherent to
6 disposal because mattresses and box springs are bulky and not easily compacted, making
7 transport and disposal inefficient; and

8 WHEREAS, Programs to address the disposal of mattresses and box springs that are
9 good for the environment and good for the economy have been implemented successfully in
10 other jurisdictions, including programs implemented through nonprofit organizations with
11 expertise in social enterprises; and

12 WHEREAS, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Oregon, operates three
13 mattress-recycling facilities, employs more than 500 individuals, including disadvantaged
14 individuals, diverts 17.8 million pounds of reusable and recyclable material annually from
15 landfills, and generates revenue that supports its social mission; and

16 WHEREAS, Under Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Maryland has committed to
17 sustainable materials management practices, which use and manage materials as
18 efficiently and sustainably as possible; and

19 WHEREAS, According to Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, through source reduction,
20 reuse, and recycling, Maryland can extend existing disposal capacity, reduce the need to
21 construct new or expanded solid waste disposal facilities, conserve natural resources, and
22 support a productive economy through recovery of valuable resources; and

23 WHEREAS, According to Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, studies have shown that
24 diverting materials from disposal to reuse, recycling, and composting results in more jobs
25 and a more sustainable economy; and

26 WHEREAS, Executive Order 01.01.2017.13 establishes as the policy of the State that
27 solid waste and recycling should seek, among other things, to minimize the environmental
28 impacts of materials management over the materials' entire life cycles; and

29 WHEREAS, Implementing policies for mattresses and box springs is consistent with
30 existing State policy; and

31 WHEREAS, Providing examples of mattress and box spring recycling to Maryland
32 communities enables the consideration of environmental, economic, and social benefits in
33 addressing the disposal, collection, deconstruction, reuse, and recycling of mattresses and
34 box springs; now, therefore,

35 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
36 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Environment

9–1702.

(a) There is an Office of Recycling created within the Department.

(d) The Office shall:

(1) Assist the counties in developing an acceptable recycling plan required under § 9–1703 of this subtitle and § 9–505 of this title, including technical assistance to the local governments;

(2) Coordinate the efforts of the State to facilitate the implementation of the recycling goals at the county level;

(3) Review all recycling plans submitted as part of a county plan as required under § 9–505 of this title and advise the Secretary on the adequacy of the recycling plan; [and]

(4) Administer the Statewide Electronics Recycling Program under Part IV of this subtitle; AND

(5) (I) ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS THAT DIVERT MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS FROM DISPOSAL IN LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS AS A BENEFIT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECONOMY, AND SOCIAL VALUES;

(II) PROVIDE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THE MOST UP–TO–DATE INFORMATION ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE RECYCLING AND REUSE OF MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS; AND

(III) PROVIDE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION EXAMPLES OF MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING RECYCLING PROGRAMS THAT CREATE JOBS FOR:

1. UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS;

2. HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS;

3. DISADVANTAGED YOUTH;

4. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;

5. INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INCARCERATED IN A LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND

1 **6. OTHER DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.**

2 (e) Beginning on January 1, 1990, and biannually thereafter, the Office shall, in
3 coordination with the Maryland Environmental Service, study and report to the Governor
4 and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

5 (1) The availability of local, national, and international markets for
6 recycling materials;

7 (2) The identification and location of recycling centers, including an
8 analysis of existing recycling centers and the need to expand these facilities or construct
9 new recycling centers;

10 (3) Programs necessary to educate the public on the need to participate in
11 recycling efforts;

12 (4) The economics and financing of existing and proposed systems of waste
13 disposal and recycling;

14 (5) State procurement policies for the purchase of recycled materials;

15 (6) Programs necessary to reduce the amount of solid waste generated for
16 disposal by a State agency or unit;

17 (7) The liaison role with local governments, the federal government, and
18 the private sector;

19 (8) The percentage reduction in the amount of solid waste that has been
20 achieved by each county; [and]

21 (9) Economically feasible methods for the recycling of scrap automobile
22 tires, batteries, and white goods; **AND**

23 **(10) THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STATE ON DIVERTING MATTRESSES**
24 **AND BOX SPRINGS FROM DISPOSAL IN LANDFILLS AND INCINERATORS.**

25 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2019.