

SUPPORT HB 86

Topic: Zero Waste

Bill Patron: Delegate Laufer

OVERVIEW:

HB 86 establishes a Mattress Stewardship Program that allows certain industry associations to administer the Program as a mattress recycling organization with the approval and certification from the Department of Environmental Quality. The bill requires certain producers, retailers, and renovators of mattresses to register with a certified mattress recycling organization and requires a producer to identify each mattress brand it sells or offers for sale in the Commonwealth on or before June 1, 2027.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Product stewardship programs are one of the best tools to reduce litter and increase recycling. Product stewardship puts responsibility on producers to develop recycling systems for their products. Fixing the disconnect between producers and recycling options has been shown to decrease litter, incineration, and landfilling.
- Producers are in the best position to manage their waste as they are responsible for the recyclability of their products.
- Mattress recycling is scarce throughout Virginia for individuals and institutions including hotels, hospitals, universities, and military bases.
- Mattresses are costly and damaging when they are dumped in our environment and take up unnecessary space in our landfills.
- According to the Mattress Recycling Council, more than 50,000 mattresses are discarded in the U.S. each day and more than 75 percent of a mattress can be recycled.
- Mattresses contain high-value recyclable materials that can be recovered and used to create new products.
- A producer stewardship program will require producers to provide end-of-life waste management plans for recycling mattresses.
- Convenient and free recycling locations will keep mattresses out of our landfills and environment while building our recycling industry.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.