

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 502

(Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattresses and Box Springs

This bill requires the Office of Recycling within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to (1) encourage local communities to consider implementing programs that divert mattresses and box springs from disposal in landfills and incinerators; (2) provide local communities with current information on local and national programs for the recycling and reuse of mattresses and box springs; and (3) provide local communities with examples of mattress and box spring recycling programs that create specified jobs. In its biannual report to the Governor and the General Assembly, the Office of Recycling, in coordination with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES), must report on any progress made in the State on diverting mattresses and box springs from disposal in landfills and incinerators.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be implemented with existing budgeted resources, assuming MDE (and not MES) handles the bill's reporting requirements. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local finances or operations. It does not require local governments to recycle mattresses and box springs.

Small Business Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect small businesses.

Analysis

Current Law:

Maryland Recycling Act

Maryland's recycling policy is guided by the Maryland Recycling Act, which sets mandatory recycling rates for State government and local jurisdictions, as well as a voluntary statewide recycling goal of 60% by 2020. Each county (including Baltimore City) must prepare a recycling plan that addresses how the jurisdiction will achieve its mandatory recycling rate. The plan must be submitted to MDE's Office of Recycling for approval when the jurisdiction submits its water and sewerage plan at least every 10 years. At least every 2 years, each county must also submit a progress report to MDE, which must include any revision of or amendment to the county plan that has been adopted.

The county recycling plan must address a variety of topics, including methods to reduce the solid waste stream; the feasibility of source separation of the solid waste stream generated within the county; and the strategy for the collection, processing, marketing, and disposition of recyclable materials.

The Office of Recycling within MDE must submit biannual reports, in coordination with MES, to the Governor and the General Assembly on specified information related to recycling in Maryland. Beginning in 2009, MDE combined the *Maryland Waste Diversion Activities Report* and the *Solid Waste Managed in Maryland Report* into one report.

Executive Order 01.01.2017.13

In January 2017, Governor Hogan issued [Executive Order 01.01.2017.13](#) that addresses waste reduction and resource recovery in Maryland and rescinded Executive Order 01.01.2015.01, issued by Governor O'Malley, which established a "Zero Waste Plan" in Maryland. Among other things, Governor Hogan's executive order establishes that it is Maryland's policy that solid waste and recycling planning should, to the extent practicable, (1) minimize the environmental impacts of materials management over their entire life cycles, including from product design to production, consumption, and end-of-life management; (2) conserve and extend existing in-state disposal capacity through source reduction, reuse, and recycling; (3) capture and make optimal use of recovered resources, including raw materials, water, energy, and nutrients; and (4) work toward a system of materials management that is both environmentally and economically sustainable in the long term.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Environmental Service; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2019
an/lgc Third Reader - March 18, 2019

Analysis by: Kathleen P. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510