

SB 1118 (Hancock): **Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act**

Last updated: August 21, 2012

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

Existing law prohibits the dumping of solid waste, except at specific solid waste disposal sites as authorized by law. In recent years, the problem of illegally dumped mattresses has become more serious, especially in the parts of the state that have been hit hardest by the recent recession.

The Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act will require manufacturers of mattresses sold in this state to develop, finance and implement a convenient and cost effective program to collect and recycle used mattresses.

PROBLEM & NEED FOR THE BILL

Existing law provides several examples for the disposal of solid waste. AB 2020 (Margolin, 1986), the popularly-known "bottle bill," created a now-widespread program allowing for the recycling and redemption of beverage containers. SB 20 (Sher, 2003) created a program to deal with the problem of illegally disposed e-waste, including discarded computer equipment and other electronics.

There is currently no statute addressing the problem of illegally dumped mattresses. More communities are experiencing an increased number of illegally dumped mattresses, especially given the foreclosure crisis resulting from the recent recession. The accumulation of these used mattresses in public spaces, especially if left for long periods of time, can pose a serious public health problem. Used mattresses can be a breeding ground for mold and pests.

The scope of the problem is growing. In Oakland, for example, between 18 and 35 mattresses are recovered per day. The city estimates that municipal operations devoted to recovering these mattresses costs approximately \$500,000 annually. The City of Richmond estimates that it has recovered approximately 5,000 illegally dumped mattresses from December 2010 to March 2012. The City of Los Angeles estimates that it recovers 120-150 illegally dumped mattresses per day. The City and County of San Francisco recovers approximately 75 to 80 mattresses per day.

The costs of illegally dumped mattresses—both in risk to public health and the burden on financially strapped cities—require action by the legislature.

WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO

This bill will help reduce illegal dumping, increase recycling and substantially reduce public agency costs for end-of-life management of used mattresses.

SB 1118 would require mattress manufacturers to submit a recovery and recycling plan to CalRecycle by April 1, 2014. Consistent with existing state policy, the plans would have a goal of recycling at least 75 percent of used mattresses in California by January 1, 2020.

A compliant plan would provide consumers with convenient, no-cost opportunities to recycle mattresses. These include upon delivery of a new mattress, or when dropped off at a recycling facility or solid waste facility.

The bill would also provide consumers the option of having mattress retailers recover, at no cost, an equivalent used mattress upon the delivery of a new mattress.

CalRecycle would have authority to consider a manufacturer's proposed recovery and recycling plan and determine if it is in compliance. A manufacturer would implement its plans by July 1, 2014.

Implementation by CalRecycle would be funded by a quarterly administrative payment made to the department by mattress manufacturers.

SUPPORT

California Retailers Assn.
Californians Against Waste
California Product Stewardship Council
City of Oakland
City and County of San Francisco
City of Richmond
Environment California
National Resources Defense Council
Recology
Republic Services, Inc.
Waste Management

BILL STATUS

Approved by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations,
11 to 5 – August 17, 2012.