

Mattress Recycling Study Commission Bill S.2174 FAQ

October 2017

What the Mattress Recycling Study Commission Bill asks for

The Mattress Recycling Study Commission Bill S.2174, filed by Senator Donoghue of Lowell on behalf of *MASSPSC*, a program under the umbrella of *MASSRECYCLE*, asks the legislature to establish a study commission to examine the status of mattress disposal and recycling in the Commonwealth. Bill S.2174:

- Does not request any new regulations, policies or funding
- Creates a group of diverse stakeholders tasked with gathering data and researching mattress recycling models from other states

S.2174 Co-Sponsorship Opportunity

It is still possible for a state legislator to sign on as a co-sponsor to S.2174. Please contact Senator Donoghue's office or *MASSRECYCLE* staff for further information or to sign on as a co-sponsor.

Sign on today to be a part of this important push. Help us shift the economic and environmental burden of mattress disposal off municipalities and taxpayers.

Why Increasing Mattress Recycling is Important

- Only 5% of the 600,000 mattresses disposed of annually get recycled with the rest going to landfills
- Mattresses take up excessive space at landfills and barely decompose, which is especially problematic due to in-state landfill capacity dwindling
- Discarding mattresses at the landfill is more costly compared to recycling
- Mattresses are bulky and represent increasing transportation, storage and logistical costs for local DPWs

How Increasing Mattress Recycling can Benefit the Commonwealth

- Cost savings for municipalities; in Connecticut, increasing mattress recycling has saved municipalities an estimated **\$1.6 million annually**
- Mattresses can be readily recycled into steel, foam and fiber for use in further manufacturing
- An estimated 40 to 50 jobs are created for every 10,000 tons of mattresses recycled

How this Bill is Different than Other Material-Specific Bills

- This bill does not ask for a specific policy or financial appropriation, and instead asks to research the best model for increasing recycling in MA
- If the product stewardship model becomes favored by the study commission, unlike other materials like paint, the retailers will likely not oppose such a model; mattress retailers in the state already take back mattresses for a fee for disposal and did not oppose in Connecticut



31 Milk Street 960871, Boston, MA 02196
director@massrecycle.org | 617-338-0244