

Assembly

Committee Report

The committee on Consumer Affairs, reports and recommends:

Senate Bill 527

Relating to: the manufacture, distribution and sale in this state of any mattress, upholstered spring, comforter, pad, cushion or pillow designed and manufactured for the purpose of sleeping or reclining and providing a penalty.

By Senators Rosenzweig, Huelsman, C. Potter, Roessler, A. Lasee, Plache and Panzer; cosponsored by Representatives Dobyms, Bock, Ladwig, Williams, Gunderson, Musser, Seratti, Vrakas and Plale.

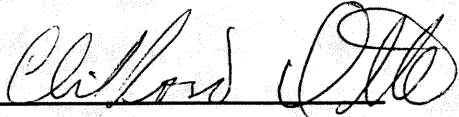
CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 1, Absent 1

Ayes: (6) Representatives Otte, Ott, M. Lehman,
Urban, Hasenohrl and Black.

Noes: (1) Representative Johnsrud.

Absent: (1) Representative Williams.

Representative Williams would have voted Aye had she
been present.



Representative Clifford Otte
Chair



May 4, 1998

The Honorable Clifford Otte
Chairperson
Assembly Committee for Consumer Protection
Via Fax: 608-266-7038
Number of Pages: 2

RE: Mattress Tagging Laws for Wisconsin / Senate Bill 527

Dear Mr. Otte:

This letter is to inform you of the strong level of support for Senate Bill 527 by the Verlo Mattress Company, Inc. and the Verlo Mattress Factory Stores. Verlo Mattress Company, Inc., (corporate headquarters in Whitewater, Wisconsin and facilities throughout the state) is perhaps the strongest proponent of tough tagging regulations in the country. We believe that bedding regulations that assure proper contents labeling will help to promote a level playing field for everyone in the Wisconsin bedding industry -- manufacturers, retailers and consumers alike.

We are so strongly opposed to used bedding being recirculated to unsuspecting consumers, that we have pioneered the country's only environmentally sound method of mattress tear down and disposal: the National Outcycle[®] Environmental Program. This program ensures that used bedding does not end up in the hands of renovators, nor do they clog our state's landfills. Instead, all post-consumer materials collected by the Verlo Mattress Factory Stores are returned to Whitewater, Wis. for dismantling. These materials are then separated and used for other purposes such as Adirondack furniture, moving blankets and carpet padding. None of the materials are ever used again in bedding!

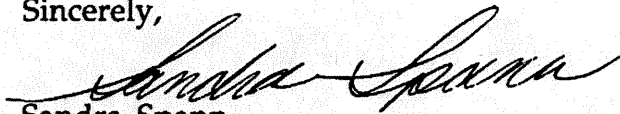
I'd like to invite you and your committee for a tour of our facilities in Whitewater, so you can see for yourself how Verlo Mattress Factory Stores have voluntarily been working to reduce the number of mattresses that wind up in our state's landfills or in the hands of unscrupulous renovators.

Mattress Tagging Laws / Page 2

Mr. Otte, the Verlo Mattress Company, Inc. and Verlo Mattress Factory Stores are strongly in favor of aggressive mattress tagging laws. We urge you to do everything in your power to give Wisconsin some of the toughest bedding regulations in the country.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, my information is listed below. Thank you for your time and support of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Sandra Spann
Director of Communications and Marketing
Verlo Mattress Company, Inc.
W3130 State Road 59
P.O. Box 298
Whitewater, WI 53190
(414) 473-8957 ext. 104
sspann@verlo.com

cc: Speciality Team
Verlo Mattress Factory Stores of Wisconsin Franchisees
International Sleep Products Association
File

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 5/15/98

Bill No. SB527

Or
Subject _____

David Ghilardi / David TATAR
(Name)

2811 Aq. Dr.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53708
(City & Zip Code)

Dept of Ag Trade Consumer Protection
(Representing)

Speaking in favor:

Speaking against:

Registering in favor:

Registering against:

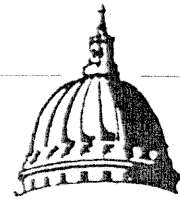
Speaking for information only;
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

*Available for
Information.*

PEGGY
ROSENZWEIG



State Senator, 5th Senate District

TESTIMONY: MATTRESS BILL

Senate Bill 527

Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee,

May 5, 1998

I would like to thank Chairman Otte for scheduling this bill for executive session and I would like to ask all of you to support SB 527.

Senate Bill 527 would regulate the sale of so-called "second-hand" bedding in the State of Wisconsin. I drafted the legislation in response to an investigative report conducted by consumer reporter Lynise Weeks from Channel 4 in Milwaukee. Lynise found that certain retailers in the Milwaukee area have been selling used mattresses with fresh covers while telling the public that the mattresses are "new."

The report was disturbing, to say the least. Some of these so-called new mattresses were found to be heavily stained and soiled inside. In extreme cases, such used bedding could carry disease.

SB 527 would require all bedding sold in Wisconsin to have a label indicating whether the material used in the manufacture of the bedding is new or second-hand. The label would describe the type of material, and carry the names and addresses of the manufacturer and seller. The bill would also prohibit the resale of any bedding containing material used in a hospital or by a person with an infectious disease

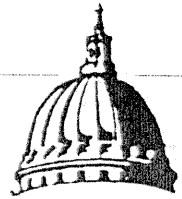
Violations could be punished with fines from \$100 to \$1,000 and imprisonment for up to one year. Civil action could also be commenced against violators by purchasers and the state.

I've worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and we have patterned the legislation after similar laws already in effect in Illinois and Minnesota. As a matter of fact, Wisconsin is currently one of only nineteen states without bedding-label laws.

I believe consumers have a right to know what they're buying. A new mattress ought to be new on the inside as well as the outside. In addition, the sale of used, unmarked bedding is a real public health concern that needs to be addressed.

I urge the committee to take timely action and send this bill to the full Assembly for consideration. Thank you for your attention during this hectic time.

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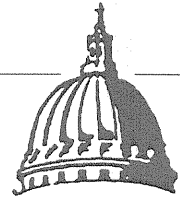
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Vote Record

Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs

Date: 5-5-98 Executive Session Public Hearing

Bill Number: SB 527

Moved by: Otte Seconded by: Hasenohrl

Motion: Concurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Rep. Clifford Otte, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Alvin Ott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Michael Lehman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Frank Urban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Annette Polly Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Hasenohrl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Spencer Black	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		

Motion Carried

Motion Failed