

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No.  
3 186 entitled “An act relating to the systemic evaluation of recovery residences  
4 and recovery communities” respectfully reports that it has considered the same  
5 and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended  
6 by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. RECOMMENDATION; RECOVERY RESIDENCE

9 CERTIFICATION

10 (a) The Department of Health, in consultation with State agencies and  
11 community partners, shall develop and recommend a certification program for  
12 recovery residences operating in the State that choose to obtain certification.  
13 The certification program shall incorporate those elements of the existing  
14 certification program operated by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery  
15 Residences. The recommended certification program shall also:

16 (1) identify an organization to serve as the certifying body for recovery  
17 residences in the State;

18 (2) propose certification fees for recovery residences;

19 (3) establish a grievance and review process for complaints pertaining to  
20 certified recovery residences;

1           (4) identify certification levels, which may include distinct staffing or  
2           administrative requirements, or both, to enable a recovery residence to provide  
3           more intensive or extensive services;

4           (5) identify eligibility requirements for each level of recovery residence  
5           certification, including:

6                   (A) staff and administrative requirements for recovery residences,  
7                   including staff training and supervision;

8                   (B) compliance with industry best practices that support a safe,  
9                   healthy, and effective recovery environment; and

10                   (C) data collection requirements related to resident outcomes;

11           (6) establish the required policies and procedures regarding the  
12           provision of services by recovery residences, including policies and procedures  
13           related to:

14                   (A) resident rights, including the following minimum standards for  
15                   residential agreements:

16                           (i) contents of initial resident agreements;

17                           (ii) resident discharge policies;

18                           (iii) length of time a bed shall be held for a resident who  
19                   temporarily exits a recovery residence; and

20                           (iv) criteria by which a resident can return to the recovery  
21                   residence in the event of a temporary removal;

22                           (B) resident use of legally prescribed medications; and

1           (C) promoting quality and positive outcomes for residents;

2           (7) recommend an appropriate term for a noncertified recovery  
3 residence; and

4           (8) identify minimum reporting requirements about recovery residences  
5 by the certifying body, including reports on the temporary and permanent  
6 removal of residents, which the certifying body shall aggregate for regular  
7 submission to the Department.

8           (b) In developing the certification program recommendations required  
9 pursuant to this section, the Department shall consider:

10           (1) available funding streams to sustainably maintain and expand  
11 recovery residence services throughout the State;

12           (2) how to address barriers that limit the availability of recovery  
13 residences;

14           (3) recovery residence models used in other states and their applicability  
15 to Vermont; and

16           (4) how to engage noncertified recovery residences in the certification  
17 process.

18           (c) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department shall submit a written  
19 report describing its recommended recovery residence certification program  
20 and containing corresponding draft legislation to the House Committee on  
21 Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

1        (d) As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a shared living  
2        residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that  
3        provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support services  
4        and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use  
5        disorders.

6        Sec. 2. ASSESSMENT; GROWTH AND EVALUATION OF RECOVERY  
7        RESIDENCES

8        (a) The Department of Health shall complete an assessment of certified and  
9        noncertified recovery residences in the State, which shall:

10        (1) create a comprehensive inventory of all recovery residences in  
11        Vermont, including assessments of proximity to employment, recovery, and  
12        other community resources;

13        (2) assess the current capacity, knowledge, and ability of recovery  
14        residences to inform data collection and improve outcomes for residents;

15        (3) assess recovery residences’ potential for future data collection  
16        capacity; and

17        (4) assess the types of data systems currently in use in Vermont’s  
18        recovery residences and defining the minimum core components of a data  
19        system.

20        (b) The Department may obtain technical assistance to complete the  
21        assessment required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.



1                    (I) addresses the length of time that a bed will be held in the  
2                    event of a temporary removal;

3                    (II) establishes the criteria by which a resident can return to the  
4                    recovery residence in the event of a temporary removal; and

5                    (III) ensures a resident’s possessions will be held not less than  
6                    60 days in the event of permanent removal;

7                    (ii) designating alternative housing arrangements for the resident  
8                    in the event of an exit or transfer, including contingency plans when alternative  
9                    housing arrangements are not available;

10                   (iii) describing the recovery residence’s substance use policy,  
11                   which shall exempt the use of a resident’s valid prescription medication when  
12                   used as prescribed; and

13                   (iv) indicating that by signing a residential agreement, a resident  
14                   acknowledges that the recovery residence may cause the resident to be  
15                   immediately exited or transferred to alternative housing if the resident violates  
16                   the recovery residence’s substance use policy or engages in acts of violence  
17                   that threaten the health or safety of other residents;

18                   (B) the recovery residence has obtained the resident’s written consent  
19                   to its residential agreement, reaffirmed after seven days;

20                   (C) the resident violated the substance use policy in the residential  
21                   agreement or engaged in acts of violence that threatened the health or safety of  
22                   other residents; and

1           (D) the recovery residence has provided or arranged for a  
2           stabilization bed or other alternative temporary housing.

3           (2) Relapse of a substance use disorder resulting in exiting a recovery  
4           residence shall not be deemed a cause of the resident’s own homelessness for  
5           purposes of obtaining emergency housing.

6           (3) As used in this subsection, “recovery residence” means a shared  
7           living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder  
8           that:

9                   (A) provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing  
10                  support services and community resources available to persons recovering  
11                  from substance use disorders; and

12                   (B) is certified by an organization approved by the Department of  
13                  Health and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for  
14                  Recovery Residences or another approved organization.

15           Sec. 4. REPORT; RECOVERY RESIDENCES’ EXIT AND TRANSFER

16                   DATA

17                   (a) On or before January 1, 2025 and 2026, a recovery residence shall  
18                  report to the certifying body for the recovery residence any exit or transfer of a  
19                  resident by the recovery residence in the previous year and the asserted basis  
20                  for exiting or transferring the resident.

1       (b) On or before January 15, 2025 and 2026, the certifying body for a  
2       recovery residence shall report to the Department of Health the data received  
3       under subsection (a) of this section.

4       (c) On or before February 1, 2025 and 2026, the Department of Health  
5       shall submit the data received under subsection (b) of this section to the House  
6       Committees on General and Housing and on Human Services and the Senate  
7       Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on  
8       Health and Welfare.

9       (d) The 2025 report shall contain preliminary data from the previous six  
10       months and the 2026 report shall contain data from the preceding year.

11       (e) As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a shared living  
12       residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:

13           (1) provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support  
14           services and community resources available to persons recovering from  
15           substance use disorders; and

16           (2) is certified by an organization approved by the Department of Health  
17           and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery  
18           Residences or another approved organization.

19       Sec. 5. SUNSET; RECOVERY RESIDENCES; RESIDENTIAL  
20           AGREEMENT; REPORTING

21       (a) 9 V.S.A. § 4452(b) is repealed on July 1, 2026.



1        (b) Sec. 4 (report; recovery residences' exit and transfer data) is repealed  
2        on July 1, 2026.

3        Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

4        This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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11        (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE