

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 threatens the health or safety
17 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 threatened the health or safety of 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) As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a shared living
10 residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:

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

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

17 Sec. **5. SUNSET; RECOVERY RESIDENCES; RESIDENTIAL**

18 **AGREEMENT; REPORTING**

19 **(a) 9 V.S.A. § 4452(b) is repealed on July 1, 2026.**

20 **(b) Sec. 4 (report; recovery residences’ exit and transfer data) is repealed**
21 **on July 1, 2026.**

1 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE