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Act No. 163 (S.186). An act relating to the systemic evaluation of recovery residences and recovery communities

Subjects: Human services; substance use disorder; recovery residences; recovery communities; systemic evaluation

Sec. 1 of this act directs the Department of Health, in consultation with other State agencies and community partners to develop and recommend a certification program for recovery residences operating in the State that choose to obtain certification. It lists multiple elements that the proposed certification program must address, including establishing a grievance and review process for complaints against certified recovery residences; identifying distinct certification levels; and establishing policies and procedures related to resident rights. The Department of Health is directed to submit a report containing its recommended proposal and corresponding draft legislation to the General Assembly by January 15, 2025.

Sec. 2 of this act requires the Department of Health to complete an assessment of certified and noncertified recovery residences. The assessment shall include the creation of a comprehensive inventory of all recovery residences in the State. The Department of Health is directed to submit the results of the assessment to the General Assembly by December 15, 2025.

Sec. 3, effective July 1, 2024 through July 1, 2026, enables a recovery residence to immediately exit or transfer a resident if certain conditions are met. These conditions require that prior to any exit or transfer, the recovery residence has developed and adopted a residential agreement and obtained a resident's written consent, the resident violated the substance use policy in the residential agreement or engaged in acts of violence that threatened the health or safety of other residents, and the recovery residence provided or arranged for a stabilization bed or other alternative temporary housing.

Sec. 4, effective July 1, 2024 through July 1, 2026, directs data collection pertaining to recovery residence-initiated exits and transfers. The Department of Health is required to submit aggregated data to the General Assembly on February 1, 2025 and 2026.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024