

1 S.186

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

4 Date: January 3, 2024

5 Subject: Human services; substance use disorder; recovery residences;
6 recovery communities; systemic evaluation

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
8 Agency of Human Services to conduct a systemic evaluation of substance use
9 disorder recovery residences and recovery communities in Vermont.

10 An act relating to the systemic evaluation of recovery residences and
11 recovery communities

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 ~~Sec. 1. SYSTEMIC EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER~~

14 ~~RECOVERY RESIDENCES AND RECOVERY COMMUNITIES~~

15 ~~(a) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with community~~
16 ~~partners and individuals with lived experience of substance use disorder, shall~~
17 ~~develop and submit the results of a systemic evaluation of Vermont's substance~~
18 ~~use disorder recovery residences and recovery communities to the House~~
19 ~~Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and~~
20 ~~Welfare.~~

1 (1) On or before August 15, 2024, the Agency shall submit a report
2 identifying the framework, outcome measures, and evaluation methods to be
3 used in the systemic evaluation, as well as the key components of service
4 delivery to be evaluated.

5 (2) On or before November 15, 2024, the Agency shall submit the final
6 systemic evaluation.

7 (b) Specifically, the evaluation shall address:

8 (1) the financial landscape related to recovery residences and recovery
9 communities, including strategies for stability, the identification of potential
10 funding sources, and opportunities for braiding funding;

11 (2) gaps in services within Vermont's recovery residence and recovery
12 community system;

13 (3) an assessment of the desired framework and key components of a
14 successful recovery residence or recovery community, including guidance
15 specific to component replicability;

16 (4) the necessary components of Vermont's recovery residences and
17 recovery communities, including appropriate levels of care, lengths of stay,
18 safety, and quality of care;

19 (5) elements of the resident experience at recovery residences and
20 recovery communities, including the quality of home recovery culture and
21 recovery efficiency.

1 ~~(6) the current rate of recidivism among individuals previously staying~~
2 ~~in recovery residences and recovery communities; and~~

3 ~~(7) any other factors the Agency deems appropriate.~~

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.~~

*Sec. 1. RECOMMENDATION; RECOVERY RESIDENCE
CERTIFICATION*

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

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

(2) propose certification fees for recovery residences;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) resident rights;

(B) resident use of legally prescribed medications; and

(C) promoting quality and positive outcomes for residents.

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

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

(2) how to eliminate barriers that limit the availability of recovery residences; and

(3) recovery residence models used in other states and their applicability to Vermont.

(c) On or before October 15, 2024, the Department shall submit a written report describing its recommended recovery residence certification program and containing corresponding draft legislation to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

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

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

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

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

(a) The Department of Health shall complete an assessment of recovery residences in the State. In conducting the assessment, it shall obtain technical assistance for the purposes of:

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

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

(3) assessing recovery residences’ potential for future data collection capacity;

(4) assessing the types of data systems currently in use in Vermont's recovery residences and defining the minimum core components of a data system;

(5) assisting to develop a framework of critical components and measurable outcomes for recovery residences and other recovery communities;

(6) assisting with capacity building and sustaining alternative payment models for recovery residences; and

(7) building sustainable funding with a focus on developing fee structures.

(b) On or before October 15, 2024, the Department shall submit the results of the assessment required pursuant to this section and any recommendations for legislative action to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(c) As used in this section, "recovery residence" means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:

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

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

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.