

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

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

7 Sec. 1. RECOMMENDATION; RECOVERY RESIDENCE

8 CERTIFICATION

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

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

17 (2) propose certification fees for recovery residences;

18 (3) establish a grievance and review process for complaints pertaining to
19 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 staffing training and supervision;

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

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

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;

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

16 (C) promoting quality and positive outcomes for residents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 RESIDENCES

19 (a) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Health shall contract with an
20 entity for technical assistance for the purposes of:

- 1 (1) creating a comprehensive inventory of all recovery residences in
2 Vermont, including assessments of proximity to employment, recovery, and
3 other community resources;
- 4 (2) assessing the current capacity, knowledge, and ability of recovery
5 residences to inform data collection and improve outcomes for residents;
- 6 (3) assessing recovery residences’ potential for future data collection
7 capacity;
- 8 (4) assessing the types of data systems currently in use in Vermont’s
9 recovery residences and defining the minimum core components of a data
10 system;
- 11 (5) assisting to develop a framework of critical components and
12 measurable outcomes for recovery residences and other recovery communities;
- 13 (6) assisting with capacity building and sustaining alternative payment
14 models for recovery residences; and
- 15 (7) providing technical assistance on how to build sustainable funding
16 with a focus on developing fee structures.
- 17 (b) As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a shared living
18 residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:
 - 19 (1) provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support
20 services and community resources available to persons recovering from
21 substance use disorders; and

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

4 Sec. 3. RESERVE; OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5 In developing its fiscal year 2026 recommendations for expenditure from
6 the Opioid Abatement Special Fund established in 18 V.S.A. chapter 93,
7 subchapter 2, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall reserve
8 \$500,000.00 for:

9 (1) the contract that the Department of Health is directed to enter into
10 pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act; and

11 (2) capital expenses related to recovery residences.

12 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except Sec. 2 (assessment; growth
14 and evaluation of recovery residences) shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____
FOR THE COMMITTEE