

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 staff 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) The Department of Health shall complete an assessment of recovery  
20          residences in the State. In conducting the assessment, it shall obtain technical  
21          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) building sustainable funding with a focus on developing fee  
16           structures.
- 17           (b) On or before October 15, 2024, the Department shall submit the results  
18           of the assessment required pursuant to this section and any recommendations  
19           for legislative action to the House Committee on Human Services and to the  
20           Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

- 1        (c) As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a shared living  
2        residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:  
3            (1) provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support  
4        services and community resources available to persons recovering from  
5        substance use disorders; and  
6            (2) is certified by an organization approved by the Department of Health  
7        and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery  
8        Residences or another approved organization or is pending such certification.

9        Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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13        (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE