

S.186

Introduced by Senator Lyons Referred to Committee on Date:

Subject: Human Services; substance use disorder; recovery residences; recovery residence models

State of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the Agency of Human Services to develop standards for substance use disorder recovery residences and recovery residence models operating in Vermont.

An act relating to the standards for of recovery residences and recovery residence models

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

Definition. As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that: (1) provides residents with peer support, an environment free from alcohol, the illegal use of prescription drugs or other illegal or recreational mind-altering substances, and (2) assistance accessing support services and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use disorder.

Sec. 1. STANDARDS FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RECOVERY RESIDENCES AND RECOVERY RESIDENCE MODELS

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with community partners shall:

- (1) Establish a voluntary certification process for recovery residences in alignment with current NARR standards;
- (2) Establish standards and procedures for such certification, including those that:
 - (a) Uphold industry best practices and support a safe, healthy, and effective recovery environment;
 - (b) Promote quality and positive outcomes for the residents of recovery residences;
 - (c) Outline the rights of residents of a recovery residence, including the right to continue to receive prescribed or dispensed medications, including medication for the treatment of substance use disorder;
 - (d) Provide training and technical assistance for recovery residence operators and staff to include both clinical best practice and sustainable funding strategies;
 - (e) Protect residents against unreasonable and unfair practices in setting and collecting fees and other residence payments; and
 - (f) Establish procedures for data collection and to study the effectiveness of recovery residence regulations within the state, both at an operational level and for individuals who utilize the programs.
 - (g) Establish the necessary, core components of a successful recovery residence and the necessary, core components of a successful recovery community.