

12 An act relating to recovery residence certification

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

14 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is added to read:

15 § 4812. RECOVERY RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

16 (a) Definition. As used in this section, “recovery residence” means a

17 shared temporary living residence supporting persons recovering from a

18 substance use disorder that provides care through peer support and assistance

19 accessing support services and community resources available to persons

20 recovering from substance use disorders.

1 **(b) Certification.** Upon receipt of an application from a recovery residence
2 **in the State seeking certification, the Department shall issue the requested**
3 **certification if it determines that the applicant meets the following minimum**
4 **standards:**

5 **(1) the applicant is certified by either a Vermont affiliate of the National**
6 **Alliance for Recovery Residences or another organization approved by the**
7 **Department;**

8 **(2) the applicant demonstrates the capacity to operate a recovery**
9 **residence in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Health and in**
10 **a manner that ensures person-centered care and resident dignity;**

11 **(3) the applicant shall fully comply with standards for health, safety, and**
12 **sanitation as required by State law, including standards set forth by the State**
13 **Fire Marshal, the Department, and municipal ordinance;**

14 **(4) once certified, the recovery residence, including the buildings and**
15 **grounds, shall be subject to inspections by the Department with a ten-day prior**
16 **notice;**

17 **(5) the applicant shall have a clear process for responding to resident**
18 **complaints, including:**

19 **(A) a method by which each resident shall be made aware of the**
20 **complaint procedure;**

13 Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. § 4452 is amended to read:

14 § 4452. EXCLUSIONS

15 (a) Unless created to avoid the application of this chapter, this chapter does
16 not apply to any of the following:

17 * * *

18 (b)(1) Notwithstanding subsections 4463(b) and 4467(b) and section 4468
19 of this chapter only, a recovery residence may immediately exit or transfer a
20 resident if all of the following conditions are met:

6 (I) addresses the length of time that a bed will be held in the
7 event of a temporary removal;

10 (III) ensures a resident's possessions will be held not less than
11 60 days in the event of permanent removal;

12 (ii) explaining program rules and expected residential social
13 standards;

20 (iv)(v) indicating that by signing a residential agreement, a
21 resident acknowledges that the recovery residence may cause the resident to be

1 immediately exited or transferred to alternative housing if the resident violates
2 the recovery residence's substance use policy, regularly refuses to engage in
3 services or programming, commits a crime, engages in theft, is mentally or
4 physically interfering with the recovery of other residents, or engages in acts of
5 violence that threaten the health or safety of other residents or recovery
6 residence staff;

7 (B) the recovery residence has obtained the resident's written consent
8 to its residential agreement, reaffirmed after seven days;

9 (C) the resident violated the substance use policy in the residential
10 agreement, regularly refuses to engage in services or programming, commits a
11 crime, engages in theft, is mentally or physically interfering with the recovery
12 of other residents, or engaged in acts of violence that threatened the health or
13 safety of other residents or recovery residence staff; and

14 (D) the recovery residence has provided or arranged for a
15 stabilization bed or other alternative temporary housing.

16 (2) Relapse of a substance use disorder resulting in exiting a recovery
17 residence shall not be deemed a cause of the resident's own homelessness for
18 purposes of obtaining emergency housing.

19 (3) As used in this subsection, "recovery residence" ~~means a shared~~
20 ~~living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder~~
21 ~~that:~~

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

4 (B) ~~is certified by an organization approved by the Department of~~
5 ~~Health and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for~~
6 ~~Recovery Residences or another approved organization has the same meaning~~
7 as in 18 V.S.A. § 4812.

8 Sec. 3. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 163, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 5. SUNSET; RECOVERY RESIDENCES; RESIDENTIAL
10 AGREEMENT; REPORTING

11 (a) ~~9 V.S.A. § 4452(b) is repealed on July 1, 2026. [Repealed.]~~
12 (b) Sec. 4 (report; recovery residences' exit and transfer data) is repealed
13 on July 1, 2026.

14 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.