

Thank you for the hard and thoughtful work you're doing on behalf of Vermonters! I'm writing today to express RPV's support for S.157 and the Department of Health's suggested changes to achieve a "medium option" in providing guidelines to certified recovery residence operators without imposing undue burdens. We believe the changes will protect both residents and operators and enable the scaling of Vermont's recovery residence system to meet the goal of 400 beds by 2030.

Ensuring that the bill takes effect on July 1, 2026, when the landlord-tenant exception sunsets, avoids disruption and positions the residence operators to continue their success in providing safe, supportive recovery housing with accountability, distinguishing these residences from typical rental properties. Rulemaking would take effect on September 1, 2027, as the bill states.

The Recovery Partners of Vermont supports the previously provided Department language with these revisions:

- Exempting recovery residences from section 4460 and 4464 of landlord tenant law in 9 V.S.A. § 4452(b)(1)
- Adding “volunteers” to language in 9 V.S.A. § 4452(b)(1)(A)(v) and 9 V.S.A. § 4452(b)(1)(C)
- Removing “reaffirmed after seven days” or modifying the language to reaffirming verbally or with signage in 9 V.S.A. § 4452(b)(1)(B)

Candace Gale from VFOR will be in the committee room on Thursday, and Jeff Moreau of VTARR will be attending the meeting virtually. Jeff would be glad to make himself available to participate if that would be helpful. He'd need to receive an invite to do so. Both are available to provide testimony or answer questions.

Thank you!

Suzie