

Please Support S.157!

- ★ **Codify the nationally recognized certification process for Recovery Residences**
- ★ **Establish Rulemaking authority at the Vermont Department of Health**
- ★ **Provide for the safety and successful recovery of all individuals**

Language in Sec. 2(b)(1)(C) effectively ensures the safety of all residents when an individual relapses or engages in behaviors that jeopardize the recovery and well-being of others in the residence.

- While some residences do have stabilization beds available, **Vermont's recovery residences do not provide clinical treatment services**, and any individual who relapses needs a safe space with clinical services.
- We appreciate the efforts across Vermont to **increase access to treatment and stabilization beds**. This helps to ensure that individuals have a safe place to go if they are threatening the health and safety of other residents.
- The application of Vermont's **landlord-tenant law** to recovery residences has been a barrier to scaling this resource in Vermont. This bill makes permanent a legislative solution that has proven to be effective.

Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences

VTARR is a credentialing entity recognized by the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Substance Use Programs. VTARR works with Vermont's certified homes to develop discharge policies that align with VTARR and the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) evidence-based standards which already include best practices established by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- [Act 163, 2024](#) established State oversight of certified recovery residences

Scalability

There is strong interest in having a recovery residence in every community across Vermont where there is a recovery center. Under the alliance of RPV, residence operators are able to work closely with Vermont's recovery centers to establish new homes and to make these new residences available for the specific populations that each community has identified the greatest need for:

men, women, parents with children, LGBTQ+, etc.

Emily's Story, Vermont Foundation of Recovery

Emily's story began at a point of deep disconnection. Addiction had pulled her away from her family, her children, and any sense of stability. After a life-threatening moment that made it clear she could not continue down the same path, Emily reached out for help and took her first step toward recovery.

*That step led her to a VFOR women's recovery residence in Barre, where structure, accountability, and peer support created the foundation she needed to heal. Within the recovery residence, Emily rebuilt daily routines, learned to live in community, and strengthened her recovery alongside other women on the same journey. She found steady employment, rebuilt meaningful relationships, and gained practical life skills, including learning how to cook for herself and others. As she gained stability, she transitioned into a VFOR transitional apartment, allowing her to live more independently while continuing to reconnect with her family and her children. **Emily's story represents what is true for many Vermonters who enter into a recovery residence.***

Questions and comments can be directed to Jeffrey Moreau, ED of Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences

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