



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Freddie Rodriguez**

DISTRICT 52

## FACT SHEET

### **Assembly Bill 2214 (Rodriguez) The Safe Sober Living Home Act of 2018 As introduced 2/12/2018**

#### **Summary**

AB 2214 will allow sober living home owners and operators the ability to apply for state recognized certification if the home meets certain standards and regulations. It will also define a “drug and alcohol free residence” as a residential property that supports personal recovery in a drug and alcohol free environment for individuals who are recovering from drug and/or alcohol addiction.

Once a sober living home has been certified by an authorized non-profit under the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), homes can voluntarily be added to the DHCS website.

Additionally, state agencies and county courts, shall first recommend individuals looking for a sober living environment to certified residences, if available.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will have discretion when referring someone to a drug and alcohol free residence based on the person’s best interest geographically or otherwise.

#### **Background**

Studies conducted by Mayo Clinic show that 80 percent of alcoholics relapse within their first year of sobriety. Additionally, the National Institute on Drug Abuse asserts that 40 to 60 percent of drug addicts will relapse from their plan of treatment.

Drug and alcohol free residences, also known as “sober living homes,” have supported people in their transition to sobriety for years in the state of California by providing safe and healthy environments for those recovering from addiction.

However, under performing sober living homes can negatively impact those they claim to serve by not enforcing a drug and alcohol free policy or neglecting to provide a support system conducive to recovery. Unfortunately this has led to numerous overdoses and deaths throughout the state, which could have been avoided, had their clients been better informed of the home’s credibility.

While California’s Department of Health Care Services currently licenses entities that medically treat individuals facing drug and alcohol addiction, there is no licensing or certification process required for sober living homes and no oversight to ensure these homes are operating effectively.

AB 2214 will improve transparency about sober living home standards and inform the public about the quality they can expect at a certified home. This measure will help ensure that those recovering from addiction can find the support they need.

#### **This Legislation**

Specifically this bill:

- Defines a “drug and alcohol free residence.”
- Allows a drug and alcohol free residence owner the option to apply for state recognized certification by DHCS through an approved non-profit organization.
- Subjects certified homes to annual inspections.
- Allows the certified home to be listed on the DHCS website.
- Allows DHCS to revoke certification should the home not abide by the standards of certification.
- Requires DHCS to maintain a private, internal list of all certified homes and homes that have had certification revoked.
- Provides CDCR discretion in which home to refer someone to after being released from custody.

#### **Support**

- California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) (Sponsor)

#### **Contact Information**

Linda Tenerowicz  
Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez  
Phone (916) 319-2052  
Fax (916) 319-2151  
linda.tenerowicz@asm.ca.gov