

California Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act:

RECOVERY RESIDENCE BILL

Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

This bill requires the use of best practices for recovery residences so that access to legitimate recovery residence housing can be expanded; those currently living in recovery residences see an improved level of safety and a reduction in deaths due to opioid abuse and overdose; and local governments can recognize quality recovery residences while addressing their legitimate concerns when poorly run or fraudulent entities operate.

To achieve this, this bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to adopt SAMSHA's "Best Practices for Operating Recovery Housing" (BPORH), upon its distribution by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Before such time that the BPROH is distributed, the Department shall adopt the most recent standards approved by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) as the minimum standard for receiving state or federal funding for recovery residence housing. Additionally, this bill requires any organization that recognizes or certifies recovery residences in Californian use the BPORH/NARR standards.

This bill also gives local government ability to compel certification of a problem home if documented evidence of harm to clients or community, suspected fraud, or operation of residential treatment without a license is happening.

BACKGROUND

Substance use disorder is ranked in the top five clinically preventable burdens on health care spending. An estimated four to five years is necessary for persons experiencing the chronic disease of addiction to reach a full sustained recovery; and the first 30 to 90 days after initial treatment are the most critical for preventing relapse, making it imperative for recovery residences to be expanded as a means of reducing costs associated with multiple treatment episodes.

However, there are an estimated 3.5 million persons with diagnosable substance use disorders in California and a limited number of available recovery residences to effectively provide healthy living environments for long term recovery.

The need for quality recovery residence housing will continue to rise throughout the next decade. Therefore, the need to identify best practices for recovery residences is essential to address public health concerns.

This bill would allow for the implementation of best practices to increase access to legitimate and safe recovery residence homes.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

None

THIS BILL

Specifically, this bill:

- Requires DHCS to adopt SAMSHA's BPORH when it is published and to use NARR standards in the interim for all public funding for recovery residences
- Requires any organization that recognizes or certifies recovery residences in Californian use the BPORH/NARR standards
- Gives certified homes first preference in referrals
- Gives local government ability to compel certification of a recovery residence
- Revokes the certification of a residence if the residence is not operating in compliance with NARR/BPORH requirements or applicable laws
- Requires DHCS to keep a list of homes that have had certification revoked or denied

STATUS

Seeking author(s)

SUPPORT

OPPOSITION

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Louie Brown
Kahn Soares and Conway