



**PA 18-171**—sHB 5149  
*Public Health Committee*

## **AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER LIVING HOMES**

**SUMMARY:** This act contains various provisions regarding the oversight of sober living homes. Under the act, sober living homes are alcohol- and drug-free residences where (1) unrelated adults recovering from substance use disorder choose to live together in a supportive environment during their recovery and (2) no formal substance use disorder treatment services are provided. Specifically, the act:

1. permits a certified sober living home's operator to report the home's certified status to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) if certain conditions are met;
2. requires an operator that reports its certified status to also provide DMHAS with the number of available beds the home has at the time of the report and weekly thereafter;
3. requires DMHAS to post on its website a list of these certified sober living homes as well as the number of available beds at each home and update the information weekly;
4. establishes certain advertising and marketing requirements and restrictions for sober living home operators;
5. requires DMHAS to (a) create a one-page disclosure form for operators to distribute to potential residents and (b) post the form on the department's website; and
6. authorizes DMHAS to adopt implementing regulations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2018

### **SOBER LIVING HOME CERTIFICATION**

The act permits a certified sober living home's operator (i.e., owner or person the owner designates to manage the home's daily operations) to report the home's certified status to DMHAS if:

1. the home is certified by (a) an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (see **BACKGROUND**) or a successor organization or (b) another organization DMHAS recognizes as certifying sober living homes in Connecticut and
2. when the home is occupied by at least one resident diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, the owner maintains at least two doses of an opioid antagonist (e.g., Narcan) on the premises and trains all residents in how to administer it.

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING REQUIREMENTS

The act prohibits a sober living home operator from (1) advertising or representing that the home is certified or licensed to provide substance use disorder treatment services or (2) publishing claims of a particular outcome for residents.

It also requires a home's website or publication to include a clear and conspicuous statement in bold typeface that the home is (1) not licensed or certified to provide substance use disorder treatment services and (2) a type of housing where individuals recovering from substance use disorder voluntarily choose to live together in a supportive environment during their recovery.

Under the act, a violation of the above provisions is an unfair trade practice.

### DMHAS DISCLOSURE FORM

The act requires the DMHAS commissioner, by August 1, 2018, to create a printable one-page disclosure form for sober living home operators to distribute to prospective residents. The form must:

1. be written in plain language and an easily readable format,
2. state that sober living homes are not licensed or certified to provide substance use disorder treatment services,
3. provide information on sober living homes and resources for individuals recovering from a substance use disorder, and
4. contain a signature line on which a prospective resident may sign the form.

The act requires the commissioner to review and update the form as necessary and post it on the department's website.

### BACKGROUND

#### *National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)*

NARR is a nonprofit recovery community organization. In 2011, it established national standards for recovery residences that categorize four types of housing and services (i.e., levels or levels of support). The most recent standards were released in 2015.

NARR does not directly certify recovery residences. However, it licenses its national certification program to affiliated organizations that provide such certification.