



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 600

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5490

House of Representatives, April 13, 2026

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOBER LIVING HOMES OPERATING IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-716 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Sober living home" means an alcohol-free and drug-free
5 residence where (A) unrelated adults who are recovering from a
6 substance use disorder choose to live together in a supportive
7 environment during their recovery, and (B) no formal substance use
8 disorder treatment services are provided; and

9 (2) "Operator" means the lawful owner of a sober living home or a
10 person designated by such lawful owner to have primary responsibility
11 for the daily operation of such sober living home.

12 (b) An operator of a sober living home that is certified as a recovery

13 residence by an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery
14 Residences, or a successor organization, or another organization
15 recognized by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
16 as an organization responsible for certifying sober living homes in the
17 state, [may] shall (1) report the sober living home's certified status to the
18 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, [provided such
19 operator maintains at least] (2) provide the department with the name
20 and contact information for any individual who is responsible for
21 oversight of the daily operations of the sober living home, (3) maintain
22 not less than two doses of opioid antagonists, as defined in section 17a-
23 714a, on the premises [and provides] for each individual residing at the
24 sober living home, (4) provide annual training to all of its residents in
25 the administration of an opioid antagonist when such home is occupied
26 by at least one resident who has been diagnosed with opioid use
27 disorder, [An operator of a sober living home that reports its certified
28 status to the department shall] and (5) provide the department with the
29 number of beds available in the sober living home at the time of its
30 report and weekly thereafter. [The department shall post on its Internet
31 web site a list of the sober living homes that have reported their certified
32 status pursuant to this section and the number of beds available at each
33 such sober living home. The department shall update the list of sober
34 living homes and the bed availability at each sober living home on a
35 weekly basis.]

36 (c) In addition, on or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter,
37 the operator of a sober living home that is certified as a recovery
38 residence by an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery
39 Residences, or a successor organization, or another organization
40 recognized by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
41 as an organization responsible for certifying sober living homes in the
42 state, shall report to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
43 Services and the chief elected official of the municipality in which the
44 sober living house is located on the following:

45 (1) The total bed capacity of the sober living home;

46 (2) The average number of individuals residing at the sober living
47 home on a daily basis during the prior calendar year;

48 (3) The average number of staff employed by the sober living home
49 on a daily basis during the prior calendar year;

50 (4) The professional licensure or certification credentials of any staff
51 employed at the sober living home;

52 (5) The type of professional training provided to staff on an annual
53 basis, including, but not limited to, training on the administration of
54 opioid antagonists, as defined in section 17a-714a;

55 (6) Whether criminal history records checks are required of the staff
56 at the sober living home;

57 (7) The quantity of opioid antagonists maintained and available on a
58 daily basis for use at the sober living home;

59 (8) The name of the individual or entity that owns the sober living
60 home;

61 (9) The level of professional liability insurance maintained by the
62 individual or entity that owns the sober living home;

63 (10) The number of sinks, toilets, showers and bathtubs available to
64 individuals residing at the sober living home; and

65 (11) Copies of any citations alleging a violation of the Public Health
66 Code, the State Building Code, the Fire Safety Code or a municipal code,
67 as defined in section 8-169aa, received by the sober living home during
68 the time period covered by the report.

69 (d) The department shall post on its Internet web site a list of the sober
70 living homes that have reported their certified status pursuant to this
71 section and the number of beds available at each such sober living home.
72 The department shall update the list of sober living homes and the bed
73 availability at each sober living home on a weekly basis.

74 [(c)] (e) No operator of a sober living home shall (1) advertise or
75 represent that a sober living home is a facility that is certified or licensed
76 to provide substance use disorder treatment services, [or] (2) publish
77 any claims of particular outcomes for individuals residing in such
78 homes, or (3) without the consent of an individual residing at a sober
79 living home, disclose personally identifiable information to any other
80 person if such disclosure would constitute a violation of federal law,
81 including, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and
82 Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191) (HIPAA), as amended from
83 time to time. Any Internet web site or publication maintained by a sober
84 living home shall include a clear and conspicuous statement in bold
85 typeface that the sober living home (A) is not licensed or certified to
86 provide substance use disorder treatment services, and (B) is a type of
87 housing in which individuals recovering from a substance use disorder
88 voluntarily choose to live together in a supportive environment during
89 their recovery. Any violation of the provisions of this subsection shall
90 constitute an unfair trade practice pursuant to section 42-110b.

91 [(d) On or before August 1, 2018, the] (f) The commissioner shall
92 create a printable one-page disclosure form for distribution to
93 prospective sober living home residents. Such disclosure form shall (1)
94 be written in plain language and in an easily readable format, (2) state
95 that sober living homes are not licensed or certified to provide substance
96 use disorder treatment services, (3) provide information on sober living
97 homes and resources for individuals recovering from a substance use
98 disorder, and (4) contain a signature line on which a prospective
99 resident may sign the form. Such disclosure form shall be made
100 available to the public on the department's Internet web site. The
101 commissioner shall review and update such disclosure form as
102 necessary.

103 [(e)] (g) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
104 may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
105 to implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-716
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(c)(11), commas were added for proper form.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	at least \$100,000	at least \$100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of at least \$100,000 to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) associated with reporting requirements for sober living homes. Costs reflect increased contract costs to expand the current work done by Advanced Behavioral Health around the sober house network.

Under current law, certified sober living homes are allowed but not required to report their certified status to DMHAS, provided such homes maintain at least two doses of an opioid antagonist and train all residents when at least one resident has an opioid use disorder. The bill requires all homes to report on their certified status, name and contact information for anyone responsible for daily oversight and provide a weekly report on bed availability.¹ The bill also requires homes to annually report to DMHAS, beginning by 1/1/27, various information including the average daily number of residents and staff, professional or certification credentials of staff and any training provided throughout the year, the quantity of opioid antagonists maintained and

¹ As under current law, DMHAS must post and update the list of reported sober living homes and associated bed availability on their website on a weekly basis.

available on a daily basis, the number of sinks, toilets, showers, and bathtubs available to residents, and copies of any citations related to public health, building, fire, or municipal code violations.

To the extent DMHAS is required to verify that sober living homes are meeting the requirements of the bill, the agency will incur additional staffing and contract costs.

The bill also adds a provision to an existing unfair trade practice violation concerning sober living homes resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The Department of Consumer Protection investigates these violations and has the resources and expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5490*****AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOBER LIVING HOMES OPERATING IN THE STATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes regarding the oversight of sober living homes. By law, these are alcohol- and drug-free residences where (1) unrelated adults who are 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.

First, the bill increases reporting requirements for the operators of sober living homes that are certified as recovery residences by an affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (see BACKGROUND) or a successor organization, or another organization the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) recognizes as certifying sober living homes in the state. It does this by requiring operators to:

1. report the home's certified status to DMHAS, instead of allowing them to do this;
2. give DMHAS (a) the name and contact information of anyone who oversees daily operations and (b) weekly information on the number of available beds; and
3. beginning by January 1, 2027, annually report certain operational information to DMHAS and the municipality where the home is located.

The bill also requires these operators to (1) keep on the home's premises at least two doses of opioid antagonists (Narcan, for example)

for each resident and (2) annually train all residents on how to administer it when at least one resident has a diagnosed opioid use disorder.

Additionally, it prohibits all sober living home operators from disclosing personally identifiable information, without the resident's consent, to another person if doing so would violate federal law, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Protection Act of 1996 (HIPAA). It makes doing this an unfair trade practice (see BACKGROUND).

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, authorizes DMHAS to adopt regulations to implement these oversight requirements.

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

CERTIFIED SOBER LIVING HOME REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Reporting Certified Status

Current law allows the operators of certified sober living homes to report a home's certified to status to DMHAS as long as the home keeps at least two doses of an opioid antagonist and trains all residents on how to administer it if at least one resident has an opioid use disorder. By law, the operator is the owner or other designated person who manages the home's daily operations.

The bill makes reporting the certified status mandatory, and not only for homes that meet the opioid antagonist requirements. Additionally, the homes must give DMHAS:

1. the name and contact information for anyone who is responsible for the home's daily operations and
2. weekly information on the number of beds available, which, under current law, is only required for the homes that opt to report their certified status.

Annual Reporting to DMHAS and Municipalities

Under the bill, a certified sober living home operator must annually report the following information to DMHAS and the chief elected official of the municipality where the home is located:

1. name of the individual or entity that owns the home;
2. total bed capacity of the home;
3. how many sinks, toilets, showers, and bathtubs are available to the home's residents;
4. for the previous calendar year, the average daily number of (a) residents living at the home and (b) staff employed by the home; and
5. quantity of opioid antagonists that are maintained and available for use at the home on a daily basis.

Additionally, the operator must include information on (1) professional licensure or certification held by any staff of the home; (2) the types of professional training that staff receive each year, including on how to administer opioid antagonists; (3) whether criminal background checks are required of staff; and (4) the level of professional liability insurance the home's owner maintains. It must also provide copies of any citations the home received during the reporting period that allege a violation of the state's public health, building, or fire safety codes, or a violation of certain municipal codes (for example, building, blight, fire, or health ordinances).

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA)

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the consumer protection commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the

attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)

NARR is a nonprofit recovery community organization. It has national standards for recovery residences that categorize four types of housing and services (known as levels or levels of support). The most recent standards were released in 2018. NARR does not directly certify recovery residences. However, it licenses its national certification program to affiliated organizations that provide certification.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/24/2026)