
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 DHMAS (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)