

Amendment to SB 298-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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3 1 New Paragraph; Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse; Definitions. Amend RSA 172-B:1 by inserting  
4 after paragraph XIII the following new paragraph:

5 XIII-a. "Recovery residence" means a home-like environment for individuals recovering from  
6 substance use disorder centered around peer-support that provides an alcohol-free and drug-free  
7 living environment or any other business holding themselves out as recovery housing, sober living,  
8 or a recovery residence. This term shall not include a halfway house, treatment unit, or  
9 detoxification facility.

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11 Amend RSA 172-B:2, V(a)(3) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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13 (3) Criteria by which the department may *revoke certification of* ~~[exclude]~~ a  
14 residence ~~[from the list]~~ if the frequency ~~[or]~~ *and/or* severity of complaints received supports a  
15 determination that the recovery ~~[housing]~~ *residence* at issue does not maintain standards or  
16 provide an environment that appropriately supports recovery.

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18 Amend RSA 172-B:2, VII(b)-(d) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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20 (b) The certifying body shall investigate complaints received by the department  
21 regarding non-compliance with ~~[NARR]~~ *nationally recognized* standards. The certifying body  
22 shall provide an annual report to the department, and shall report quarterly on any newly certified  
23 ~~[houses]~~ *residences* or ~~[houses]~~ *residences* that are out of compliance. The certifying body shall  
24 inform the department *and the municipality in which a recovery house operates* within ~~[5]~~ *3*  
25 business days if ~~[a recovery house's]~~ certification is suspended or revoked.

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27 ~~[(c) The department shall identify certified recovery houses in good standing on the  
registry created pursuant to paragraph V.]~~

28

29 ~~[(d) The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the process for  
certification and the requirements of this paragraph.]~~

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31 Amend RSA 172-B:2, VIII and IX as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the  
32 following:

1 *VIII. All recovery residences operating in the state of New Hampshire shall file with*  
2 *the department, on a form prescribed by the department, within 120 days of the effective*  
3 *date of this section to initiate the certification process. For any recovery housing residence*  
4 *that begins operations after the effective date of this section, the required form shall be*  
5 *filed with the department no later than 30 days before the first resident begins occupancy.*  
6 *The following information shall be included on the form:*

7 *(a) The name and contact information of the operator;*

8 *(b) The first date of occupancy;*

9 *(c) Information related to any existing certification or equivalent accreditation*  
10 *the residence has obtained or is in the process of obtaining; and*

11 *(d) Any other information required by the department through rule.*

12 *IX. All recovery residences operating within the state of New Hampshire shall*  
13 *obtain and maintain certification directly or through a contracted entity pursuant to the*  
14 *rules adopted under this chapter and the following:*

15 *(a) Certification shall be completed within 12 months of filing. A recovery*  
16 *residence shall not operate without certification unless it is actively engaged in efforts to*  
17 *obtain certification. For purposes of identifying this 12-month time frame, a recovery*  
18 *housing residence is considered to begin operating on the date that the first resident*  
19 *occupies the residence.*

20 *(b) If the department finds that a recovery residence is operating without*  
21 *certification, the department shall issue by certified mail a cease operations notice. The*  
22 *department shall notify the municipality in which a recovery house operates and the*  
23 *attorney general for prosecution.*

24 *(c) No person, business, or government entity shall advertise or represent any*  
25 *residence or other building to be a recovery residence, sober living home, or any other*  
26 *alcohol and drug free housing for persons recovering from substance use disorder unless*  
27 *the residence or building meets one of the following conditions:*

28 *(1) The residence or building is certified under this chapter; or*

29 *(2) The residence or building is regulated and licensed by the department.*

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31 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

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33 4 Department of Health and Human Services; Funding. The department shall not be required  
34 to implement the provisions of this act until such date that the program is sufficiently funded to  
35 meet the requirements of sections 1 through 3 of this act.

36 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.