



February 17, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

SB444 - Certificate of Need - Intermediate Health Care Facilities

POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Recovery Housing and Treatment Center Coalition of Maryland (RHTC) appreciates the public health intent of SB 444 and strongly supports the bill. This legislation enhances the regulatory framework governing intermediate care facilities that provide medically supervised residential substance use disorder treatment – a critical component of the continuum of care for individuals in recovery.

RHTC is a coalition of recovery residences, group homes, treatment centers, and other critical services that form the backbone of Maryland’s continuum of care. Our mission is to educate policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public on the importance of maintaining and expanding recovery facilities and services in our state. We work to ensure that individuals in recovery have access to high-quality, stable housing and treatment options that support their long-term well-being and reintegration into the community.

SB 444 revises the Certificate of Need (CON) requirements so that clinically appropriate residential treatment capacity is more consistently evaluated under state planning standards, while also providing a clear pathway for new facilities offering medically managed residential substance use disorder treatment to open when they meet public interest and state health plan requirements with appropriate notice. This balances necessary oversight with increased access to treatment capacity for Marylanders who need it.

The exemption provision for intermediate care facilities that offer medically managed residential substance use disorder treatment services — conditioned on written notice and commission review — ensures that facilities focused on recovery are not unduly restricted, while still assuring quality and alignment with State health planning goals.

Residential treatment and supportive recovery housing are evidence-based components of successful long-term recovery for individuals with substance use disorders. By clarifying the CON process and exempting qualifying intermediate care facilities, SB 444 reduces administrative barriers that could otherwise slow the establishment of high-quality treatment capacity in communities that need it most.



The Coalition views the CON streamlining in SB 444 as complementary to ongoing efforts to expand supportive housing, outpatient services, and recovery supports across Maryland.

While SB 444 facilitates the establishment of needed facilities, it does not eliminate important oversight. The bill preserves a system where changes in bed capacity and new facility openings are still subject to review for consistency with the State health plan and public interest — ensuring treatment resources are distributed thoughtfully and in alignment with broader health system needs.

For these reasons, the Recovery Housing and Treatment Center Coalition of Maryland respectfully urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 444 a Favorable Report.

For more information call or email:

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