

# SENATE BILL 876

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By: **Senator Attar**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Recovery Residences – Certification – Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning on a certain date, rather than authorizing, a  
4 recovery residence to be certified by a credentialing entity before operating in the  
5 State; and generally relating to the certification of recovery residences.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Health – General  
8 Section 7.5–101(a) and (o), 19–2501(a), (c), and (e), and 19–2502  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Health – General  
13 Section 7.5–401(a) and (b)(2), 19–2503, and 19–2504  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Health – General  
18 Section 19–2501.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Health – General**

24 7.5–101.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(o) “Recovery residence” means a service that:

(1) Provides alcohol-free and illicit-drug-free housing to individuals with substance-related disorders or addictive disorders or co-occurring mental disorders and substance-related disorders or addictive disorders; and

(2) Does not include clinical treatment services.

7.5–401.

(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a behavioral health program shall be licensed by the Secretary before program services may be provided in this State.

**(2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A RECOVERY RESIDENCE.**

(b) The Secretary may exempt the following persons from the licensure requirements of this section:

(2) Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, [recovery residences,] peer support services, family support services, or other similar organizations, if the organization holds meetings or provides support services but does not provide any type of treatment;

19–2501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) “Certified recovery residence” means a recovery residence that holds a certificate of compliance.

(e) “Recovery residence” has the meaning stated in § 7.5–101 of this article.

**19–2501.1.**

**BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027, A RECOVERY RESIDENCE SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY A CREDENTIALING ENTITY APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 19–2502 OF THIS SUBTITLE BEFORE OPERATING IN THE STATE.**

19–2502.

(a) The Department shall approve a credentialing entity to develop and administer a certification process for recovery residences.

(b) The credentialing entity shall:

(1) Establish recovery residence certification requirements;

(2) Establish processes to administer the application, certification, and recertification process;

(3) Establish processes to monitor and inspect a recovery residence;

(4) Conduct an on-site inspection of a recovery residence:

(i) Before issuing a certificate of compliance; and

(ii) At least once during each certification renewal period; and

(5) Issue a certificate of compliance on approval of the application process and the inspection of the recovery residence.

(c) A certificate of compliance issued by the credentialing entity is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance.

(d) The credentialing entity may revoke the certificate of compliance of a certified recovery residence if the credentialing entity finds that the recovery residence is not in compliance with the requirements established by the credentialing entity.

19–2503.

(a) **(1)** On or before October 1, 2017, the credentialing entity shall submit a list to the Department of the recovery residences that have obtained a certificate of compliance.

**(2) THE CREDENTIALING ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT AN UPDATED LIST TO THE DEPARTMENT AS NECESSARY.**

(b) **[(1) On or before November 1, 2017, the] THE** Department shall publish **AND MAINTAIN** on its website:

**[(i)] (1)** A list of each credentialing entity and the contact information for the credentialing entity; and

**[(ii)] (2)** A list of each **CERTIFIED** recovery residence operating in each county in the State.

**[(2)** The list published under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection shall indicate whether the owner of a recovery residence has received a valid certificate of compliance.]

1 (c) (1) [On or before November 1, 2017, a] **EACH** credentialing entity shall  
2 publish **AND MAINTAIN** on its website a list of each recovery residence that holds a valid  
3 certificate of compliance.

4 (2) The list published under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include  
5 only the owner of the recovery residence and the contact information of the owner.

6 19–2504.

7 (a) A person may not advertise, represent, or imply to the public that a recovery  
8 residence is a certified recovery residence unless the recovery residence has obtained a  
9 certificate of compliance under this subtitle.

10 (b) (1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section is subject to a civil  
11 penalty imposed by the Department not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense.

12 (2) In setting the amount of a civil penalty under paragraph (1) of this  
13 subsection, the Department shall consider the nature, number, and seriousness of the  
14 violations, the ability of the [certified] recovery residence to pay the penalty, and any other  
15 factors the Department determines are relevant.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2026.