



# Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Emily Keller, Special Secretary of Overdose Response

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

## **Re: SB0876 Recovery Residences – Certification – Requirement**

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 876 – Recovery Residences – Certification – Requirement. SB 876 mandates that all recovery residences be certified by a credentialing entity to the department by January 1, 2027.

Recovery residences provide housing free from illicit substances and alcohol for individuals in recovery from substance use or other addictive disorders or co-occurring mental health and substance-use disorders.<sup>1</sup> This housing can provide a variety of recovery support services and has been linked to positive outcomes, including sustained recovery from substances and alcohol and gains in employment.<sup>2</sup>

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has identified at least 248 noncertified recovery residences throughout Maryland. A deadline of January 1, 2027, may result in unintended consequences. With this deadline imposed, MDH may experience a significant influx of certification applications, potentially placing an undue burden on MDH staff or requiring additional hiring to meet the demand. Extending the certification deadline would allow for a more manageable volume of applications for MDH.

Additionally, some recovery residences may choose not to seek certification, which would reduce the overall number of recovery residences in the state. This could displace a population vulnerable to housing insecurity and in need of an environment supportive of their recovery.<sup>3</sup> Housing insecurity is a risk factor for overdose, as individuals who use substances and are unsheltered are six times more likely to experience chronic substance use than individuals in transitional housing.<sup>4</sup> A certification deadline of January 1, 2027, may not provide enough time or availability for all residents to relocate to new recovery

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/Maryland-Certification-of-Recovery-Residence-License-.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8748296/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/how-stable-housing-supports-recovery-from-substance-use-disorders/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC\\_PopSub\\_NatITerrDC\\_2023.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_NatITerrDC_2023.pdf)

residences or other housing should their current housing provider decline to seek certification.

While certification is a mechanism to ensure all recovery residences are safe, supportive, and held to the same statewide standard, it is imperative that this bill accounts for community needs, avoids disruptions in care, and mitigates the consequences for residents, while also being mindful of the resources available to the Maryland Department of Health.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Benjamin Fraifeld, Associate Director for Policy & Advocacy at MOOR, 443-346-3013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Keller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Emily Keller  
Special Secretary of Overdose Response