



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Bagnall,

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) has completed a comprehensive review and analysis of Senate Bill (SB) 876 – Recovery Residences – Certification – Requirement. This proposed legislation seeks to mandate, rather than authorize, the certification of a recovery residence by a credentialing entity prior to commencing operation within the State of Maryland. The proposed effective date for this requirement is June 1, 2027.

The Department is currently in the advanced stages of proposing comprehensive new regulations under the [Code of Maryland Regulations \(COMAR\) 10.63](#)¹, which governs community-based behavioral health programs and Recovery Residences. These regulations establish rigorous requirements for the operation and quality of recovery residences, including explicit provisions for certification and oversight. The Department is fully committed to finalizing and implementing this detailed regulatory process to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of residents within these facilities.

Following careful consideration of the existing regulatory framework and the Department's ongoing efforts for COMAR 10.63, the Department has determined that the provisions of SB 876 mandating certification are largely duplicative and, as a result, constitute an unnecessary burden on the State's current efforts to regulate recovery residences.

The implementation timeline specified in SB 876, specifically the effective date of June 1, 2027, presents a risk of generating unintended consequences and complications for the Department's robust and meticulous regulations process currently underway for COMAR 10.63. Imposing a parallel legislative mandate at this juncture risks undermining the careful, stakeholder-informed development and rollout of the COMAR regulations, potentially leading to confusion, duplication of effort, and conflicting standards within the recovery residence sector. The Department expects to be able to meet a similar implementation timeline to SB 876 through the regulatory efforts for COMAR 10.63.

Consequently, the Department advocates for caution regarding the enactment of SB 876, given that the existing and forthcoming regulatory framework under COMAR 10.63 is already designed to achieve the objectives of mandatory certification and quality oversight for recovery

¹ [https://health.maryland.gov/regs/Documents/Draft%20COMAR%2010.63%20Regs Jan 28 2026 CLEAN.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/regs/Documents/Draft%20COMAR%2010.63%20Regs%20Jan%2028%202026%20CLEAN.pdf)

residences in Maryland. The Department remains fully committed to the successful and timely implementation of its established regulatory process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Talley', written in a cursive style.

Rachel Talley, M.D
Interim Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health Administration

