

SB 878 – Health Facilities – Certified Recovery Residences – Unannounced Inspections

Senate Finance Committee

March 4, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 878.

SB 878 requires the Maryland Department of Health to conduct at least two inspections of each certified recovery residence each year, and if it is found that the residence is not in compliance with regulatory requirements and fails to correct the problem, the Department may take steps to have the residence's certification revoked.

Recovery residences are an important part of the continuum of care for people in early recovery. They deliver peer support and structured living and greatly increase an individual's odds of successfully recovering from a substance use disorder. When compared with returning home, living in a recovery residence after a treatment episode leads to higher abstinence rates, greater rates of employment and lower rates of criminal recidivism.

The Department of Health certifies that a recovery residence meets the requirements set by the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences (MCOORR). Requirements for certification include:

- Maintain clean and safe residences that comply with building codes and safety regulations and adhere to space requirements
- Provide peer support services
- Have clear policies on intake and discharge, house rules, and resident rights

The number of certified recovery residences in Maryland has grown tremendously in recent years. In January 2024, there were almost 200 recovery residences.¹ As of September 2025, the state had 285 recovery residences and 2,704 certified beds.²

There is a dire need for quality recovery residences. In Maryland, there are both certified and uncertified recovery residences. While uncertified homes can provide adequate

¹ Maryland Department of Health (January 2024). <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/documents/certified%20rr.pdf>

² Report on Oversight of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs and Recovery Residences (December 2025) [https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDH/HB722Ch697\(2025\)_2025.pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MDH/HB722Ch697(2025)_2025.pdf)

accommodations, there have been many stories about uncertified residences with horrible conditions and exploitative practices. There is no oversight of uncertified homes.

People who are seeking to enter a recovery residence rely on Maryland's certification process to guide them to select a quality home. In addition, certified recovery homes and their residents are eligible to receive certain federal and state funds. To protect people with a substance use disorder who are seeking a quality recovery residence, and to ensure that grant dollars are only going to fund deserving programs, the Department must conduct regular inspections.

For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 878 and urges a favorable report.