**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 445**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Garrett and Matthews

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Introduced in the Senate on January 25, 2023

Introduced in the House on March 28, 2023

Last Amended on March 15, 2023

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

Summary: Recovery Housing

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/25/2023 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 4](h:\sj\20230125.docx))

1/25/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 4](h:\sj\20230125.docx))

3/2/2023 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 14](h:\sj\20230302.docx))

3/3/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

3/15/2023 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 26](h:\sj\20230315.docx))

3/15/2023 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 26](h:\sj\20230315.docx))

3/15/2023 Senate Roll call Ayes-38 Nays-0 ([Senate Journal‑page 26](h:\sj\20230315.docx))

3/16/2023 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 8](h:\sj\20230316.docx))

3/16/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

3/28/2023 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 36](h:\hj\20230328.docx))

3/28/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 36](h:\hj\20230328.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=445&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/25/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/445_20230125.docx)

[03/02/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/445_20230302.docx)

[03/03/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/445_20230303.docx)

[03/15/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/445_20230315.docx)

[03/16/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/445_20230316.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Amended

March 15, 2023

S. 445

Introduced by Senators Garrett and Matthews

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Read the first time January 25, 2023

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING ARTICLE 2 TO CHAPTER 49, TITLE 44 SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES TO APPROVE A CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR RECOVERY HOUSING; TO REQUIRE THE APPROVED CREDENTIALING ENTITY TO ESTABLISH RECOVERY HOUSING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES BASED UPON NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED QUALITY STANDARDS; AND TO DESIGNATE THE EXISTING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 49 AS ARTICLE 1, ENTITLED “GENERAL PROVISIONS”.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 49, Title 44 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Article 2

Certification of Recovery Housing

Section 44‑49‑310. The General Assembly finds that a person suffering from an alcohol or substance use disorder has a higher success rate of achieving long‑term recovery when given the opportunity to build a stronger foundation by living in recovery housing that meets nationally recognized quality standards. The General Assembly finds further that this State and its subdivisions have a legitimate state interest in protecting these persons, who represent a vulnerable consumer population in need of adequate housing. It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect persons who reside in recovery housing by creating a voluntary certification program for such recovery housing.

Section 44‑49‑320. For purposes of this article:

(1) “Credentialing entity” means an organization approved pursuant to this article to certify recovery housing.

(2) “Department” means the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services.

(3) “Recovery housing” means recovery residences, recovery homes, sober living homes, work‑rehab homes, three‑quarter houses, and other similar dwellings that provide individuals recovering from alcohol and substance use disorders with a living environment free from alcohol and illicit substance use and centered on peer support and connection to services that promote sustained recovery, including continued sobriety, improved individual health, residential stability, and positive community involvement. Recovery housing does not include treatment facilities as defined in Section 44‑52‑10.

Section 44‑49‑330. (A) The department shall approve one credentialing entity within six months of the effective date of this article, for the purpose of developing and administering a voluntary certification program for organizations operating recovery housing and administrators of recovery housing. The department is authorized to suspend or revoke the approval of a credentialing entity if the department determines, in its sole discretion, that the credentialing entity has not followed the requirements of this article or protocols and guidance established by the department. In such circumstances, the department shall approve a successor credentialing entity on either an interim or permanent basis.

(B) The department shall establish protocols and guidance requiring that the credentialing entity establish recovery housing certification requirements consistent with nationally recognized quality standards, such as the standards established by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) or Oxford House. The department is authorized to amend such protocols and guidance from time to time as the department deems necessary.

(C) The credentialing entity shall determine standards for recovery housing in consultation with the department. Different standards for different classifications or categories of recovery housing are permissible; however, at a minimum, standards for all classifications or categories must require recovery housing to:

(1) have a clear mission and vision, with forthright legal and ethical codes, including the requirement to be financially honest with prospective residents;

(2) be recovery‑oriented and prohibit the use of alcohol or illicit drugs;

(3) have a role for peers to staff and govern the housing;

(4) permit and provide for access to all evidence‑based recovery treatments including, but not limited to, medication assisted treatment;

(5) have safeguards in place to uphold residents’ rights;

(6) assist residents in finding suitable employment; and

(7) assist residents who desire to relocate upon completion of the recovery program with relocation assistance services.

(D) The department shall publish a registry of the names of all certified recovery housing on its website. The registry must be updated at least every sixty days.

Section 44‑49‑340. A state agency, an employee or agent of a state agency, or a vendor with a state contract that provides services for prevention and treatment of alcohol and substance use disorders, may not refer a person to recovery housing unless the recovery housing is certified pursuant to this article.

Section 44‑49‑350. Unless the recovery housing is certified pursuant to this article, residency in such recovery housing may not:

(1) be made part of any criminal sentence or made a condition of probation by a court having criminal jurisdiction in this State;

(2) be made a condition of any bond set by a court having criminal jurisdiction in this State; or

(3) be made a condition of reentry, supervision, probation, or parole by the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

Section 44‑49‑360. Nothing in this article prohibits recovery housing that has not received certification from operating or advertising as recovery housing or from offering residence to persons recovering from substance use disorders.

Section 44-49-370. It is unlawful for an owner or operator of recovery housing that is not certified pursuant to this article to advertise or otherwise represent that such recovery housing is certified pursuant to this article. An owner or operator of recovery housing who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars per occurrence.

SECTION 2. Sections 44‑49‑10 through 44‑49‑80 are designated as Article 1, entitled “General Provisions”.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor, except Sections 44‑49‑340 and 44‑49‑350, which take effect eighteen months after approval by the Governor.

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