

HB 2239 -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/11, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines recovery residences and directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt minimum quality and performance standards for certifying a recovery residence.

Detailed Summary

- Defines a recovery residence and a national recovery residence organization.
- Directs OHA to adopt minimum quality and performance standards for certifying recovery residences that contract with a coordinated care organization (CCO) or a county behavioral health department. Specifies that standards must align with a national recovery residence organization.
- Directs OHA, CCOs, and county behavioral health departments to only contract with recovery residences that receive certification through OHA or a national recovery residence organization. Directs OHA, CCOs, and county behavioral health departments to report evidence that a certified recovery residence has engaged in fraud to OHA and any state-based affiliate of a national recovery residence organization.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Leveraging national practices to institute safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse of public funds, the importance of safeguarding the use of public funding through adoption of recovery residence standards
- The need to ensure that the adoption of standards does not limit the development of additional recovery residences
- Impact on recovery residences that are not currently accredited

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-5 Replaces the measure.

- Defines terms, including "recovery residence" and "recovery residence certifying organization."
- Permits OHA, a CCO, or a county to contract with a recovery residence to provide housing to individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) only if the residence has been certified by a recovery residence certifying organization.
- Stipulates that if OHA, a CCO, or a county must report a residence to the Director of OHA and to the certifying organization if there is documented evidence that the residence has engaged in fraud.
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2026. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) defines recovery housing as safe, healthy, family-like substance-free living environments that support individuals in recovery from addiction. Often called recovery residences, these home-like settings are intended to support individuals released from residential inpatient treatment programs or from custody from the justice system. Recovery residences are particularly important for individuals in the early stages of recovery as they support building of social capital and access to recovery supports, such as facilitating access to employment and housing.

The Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon ([MHACBO](#)) was founded in 1977 to provide certification for behavioral health workers in order to assure minimum standards of competence, accountability, and evidence-based practices. MHABO has approximately 10,000 certified members, including qualified mental health professionals and associates, certified alcohol and drug counselors, and peers, among others. MHACBO maintains a voluntary [registry](#) of recovery residences in Oregon that is populated by agencies and individual recovery residences. Currently, the registry reports 18 recovery residences with 216 total beds.

House Bill 2239 defines recovery residences and directs the Oregon Health Authority to adopt minimum quality and performance standards for certifying a recovery residence.