

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Cook Leads House Passage of Protections for Sober Living Home Residents

Legislation aims to prevent overdose deaths in homes



Rep. Cook introduces the bill on the House floor

Rep. Michelle Cook (D-Torrington) led the House’s passage on Saturday of legislation to provide greater safeguards for individuals recovering from addiction who utilize sober living homes. There is currently no oversight of sober living homes in Connecticut.

Rep. Cook introduced [HB 5741](#), An Act Concerning Sober Living Homes, in response to concerns that some sober living homes are unsafe and that municipalities have no way of protecting residents from bad actors. The bill creates a definition of a sober living home as “a residence with an operator that provides, or offers to provide, a supportive environment for adults who are recovering from a substance use disorder.”

Under the definition, sober living homes differ from facilities offering inpatient treatment for drug addiction in that they are not certified or licensed to provide substance use disorder treatment services.

“In Torrington alone we have seen a shocking and inexcusable loss of life in sober living homes. Sober living homes can be a great resource for individuals recovering from addiction, but only if they are responsibly run. Right now, there are zero protections,” **Rep. Cook** said. “This is first and foremost a consumer protection bill. Requiring sober living homes to inform residents up front what services they offer and to have Narcan on site will go a long way in keeping individuals recovering from addiction safe and preventing tragic overdose deaths.”

Under the legislation, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) would create a one-page disclosure form that sober living homes must distribute to prospective residents and have residents sign. The form would state that sober living homes are not licensed or certified to provide substance use disorder treatment services and provide information on resources for recovering from a substance use disorder. Beginning August 15, homes would be required to submit the signed disclosure forms to DMHAS.

“It has been a longtime concern in Torrington and many towns across the state that there is no way to keep track of sober living homes. Having a disclosure form addresses that issue and provides a mechanism for holding bad actors responsible,” **Rep. Cook** said.

The legislation has received the support of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and municipal leaders across the state.

Homes would also be required to maintain a supply of opioid antagonists, such as Narcan, on the premises and provide training in the administration of opioid antagonists to all residents if they have one or more tenants who have been diagnosed with opioid use disorder.

Additionally, the legislation would:

- Prohibit an operator of a sober living home from advertising or representing the home as being certified or licensed to provide treatment services and include a disclaimer to this effect on the home’s website or publications.
- Require that information is posted in a common area on all requirements of residents while living in the home, policies regarding a resident’s personal property within the home, and any grievance policies and procedures.

The bill passed the House 143 – 4 and now goes to the Senate.

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