

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## House Approves Rep. Cook's Sober Living Homes Bill

**State Rep. Michelle Cook** (D-Torrington) hailed House passage Monday of legislation she sponsored to permit sober living homes to register with the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to improve transparency for residents and their families. The bill received overwhelmingly bipartisan support.

"Sober living homes should be safe, substance-free environments where residents can focus on their recovery and rebuilding their lives," **Rep. Cook** said. "These are not treatment facilities, but they are designed to be free of drugs and alcohol. In addition, neighbors should have some peace of mind that a sober home in their neighborhood is registered with the state and certified by a national organization."

[HB 5149](#), An Act Concerning Sober Living Homes, would identify sober homes certified through the National Alliance for Recovery Residences and registered with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and require those homes to carry at least two doses of opioid antagonists, such as Narcan. Sober Homes properly registered with the state will be listed on DMHAS's website and updated on a weekly basis.

**Rep. Cook** said. "Narcan saves lives, plain and simple. We are in the midst of an opioid epidemic. We would be naïve to believe that residents of sober living homes could not slip and possibly overdose. This is a life-saving measure that will be required in certified sober homes."

Maria Coutant-Skinner LCSW and Executive Director of the McCall Center for Behavior Health said the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force have endorsed this current version of the legislation given there have been several versions being discussed over the past few months.

There are currently no standards or guidelines for sober living homes set by the state. The bill awaits action by the state Senate.

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