

1 AN ACT relating to the certification of sober living homes and declaring an
2 emergency.

3 WHEREAS, substance use disorders have a significant impact on individuals, their
4 families, and their communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Kentucky was ranked eighth highest among states in drug use and was
6 forty-seventh among states in the availability of drug treatment facilities in 2019; and

7 WHEREAS, 1,247 overdose deaths of Kentucky residents were reported to the
8 Office of Vital Statistics in June 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, Kentuckians ages 35 to 44 were the largest demographic in overdose
10 deaths, followed by ages 25 to 34; and

11 WHEREAS, substance use disorders typically involve long periods of treatment and
12 recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, quite frequently, those suffering from a substance use disorder have
14 suffered the loss of their family, their home, and their livelihood; and

15 WHEREAS, sober, safe, and healthy living environments that promote recovery
16 from substance use disorders are in great need in the Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, hundreds of sober living homes are operating with no current process
18 for certification or standards;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

21 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Recovery
22 Residence Task Force to study recovery residences and other housing and wrap-around
23 support services available to Kentuckians who have substance use disorders.

24 ➔Section 2. The duties of the task force shall include but are not limited to:

25 (1) Assessing the availability of recovery residences across the Commonwealth
26 and the services they provide;

27 (2) Outlining a certification process for recovery residences and the mechanism

1 for identifying certified recovery residences via a Web site directory for the public and for
2 purposes of referral;

3 (3) Examining the policies of recovery residences for residents who are engaged
4 with medication-assisted treatment (MAT);

5 (4) Identifying other housing available to Kentuckians with substance use
6 disorders and the services they provide;

7 (5) Outlining, where appropriate, a certification process for other substance use
8 disorder housing and making their existence known via a Web site directory to the public
9 and to referral sources; and

10 (6) Making recommendations for any needed administrative regulations or
11 legislative changes.

12 ➔Section 3. The Recovery Residence Task Force shall be composed of the
13 following members with final membership of the task force being subject to the
14 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

15 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
16 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;

18 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor
19 Leader of the House of Representatives;

20 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
21 whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;

22 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the
23 Senate;

24 (5) The secretary or designee of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;

25 (6) The commissioner or designee of the Department for Behavioral Health,
26 Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities;

27 (7) The commissioner or designee of the Department for Medicaid Services;

1 (8) The secretary or designee of the Education and Workforce Developmental
2 Cabinet;

3 (9) The commissioner or designee of the Department of Corrections;

4 (10) One drug court judge recommended by the Department of Specialty Courts
5 within the Administrative Office of the Courts;

6 (11) One representative from the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky;

7 (12) One physician with an addiction specialty who is licensed in Kentucky and
8 recommended by the Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine;

9 (13) One board-certified psychiatric pharmacist who is licensed in Kentucky and
10 recommended by the Kentucky Pharmacists Association; and

11 (14) One registered alcohol and drug peer support specialist who has been formerly
12 incarcerated to be recommended by the Kentucky Association of Regional Programs.

13 ➔Section 4. The task force shall meet at least monthly during the 2020 Interim of
14 the General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to the
15 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees
16 by December 1, 2020.

17 ➔Section 5. Provisions of this Act to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative
18 Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified
19 herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study
20 completion date.

21 ➔Section 6. Sections 1 to 4 of this Act shall have the same legal status as a House
22 Concurrent Resolution.