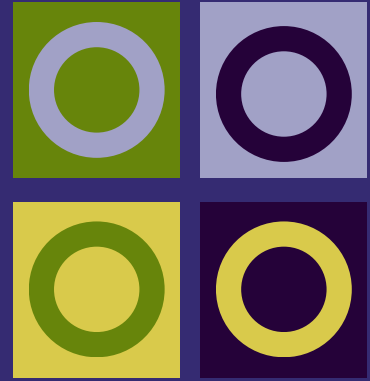


# HB 299: Voluntary Recovery Housing Accreditation



## Background and Purpose:

Throughout Texas, recovery housing has continually been misinterpreted and miscategorized; creating stigma and preventing Texas recovery homes from effectively operating. HB299 establishes a clear definition of recovery homes and establishes a voluntary accreditation process that is consistent with national industry standards and ensures the use of best practices.

## What It Does:



The bill defines "**recovery house**" as: *a shared living environment that promotes sustained recovery from substance use disorders by integrating residents into the surrounding community and providing a setting that connects residents to supports and services promoting sustained recovery from substance use disorders, is centered on peer support, and is free from alcohol and drug use.*

### AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

HB 299 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt minimum standards for accreditation as a recovery house that are consistent with the quality standards established by the **National Alliance for Recovery Residences** and the **Oxford House Incorporated**.

The entities HHSC may approve to serve as an accrediting organization in the development and administration of a voluntary accreditation program for recovery housing are limited to the **National Alliance for Recovery Residences** or the **Oxford House Incorporated**.

HB 299 also details the types of facilities ineligible for accreditation as a recovery house and requires the HHSC adopted standards to prohibit an accredited recovery house from providing personal care services as defined by the Assisted Living Facility Licensing Act.

HB 299 provides for an **annual HHSC report on accredited recovery houses in Texas**.

## ACCREDITATION AND HOUSING RELATED DETAILS:

An **approved accrediting organization** is required to do the following:

- **establish accreditation requirements** that at a minimum include the HHSC adopted standards;
- **establish procedures** to issue accreditation and related fees;
- **provide training** to designated recovery house responsible parties, if applicable, and recovery house staff regarding the HHSC adopted standards;
- **develop a code of ethics**; and
- **provide information to HHSC** for its annual report on accredited recovery houses.

A **recovery house** accredited by the **National Alliance for Recovery Residences** shall be required to have:

- **At least one individual to serve as the responsible party** for the recovery house, who is responsible for administering the recovery house according to accreditation standards;
- The designated individual complete **applicable training requirements**; and
- The recovery house **notify the accrediting organization** before the 30th business day after the date **of any change to the designated responsible party**.

Any **recovery house** accredited under the bill **SHALL NOT**:

- Allow a designated responsible party, employee, or agent of a recovery house offering to pay or agreeing to accept remuneration in cash or in kind to or from another for securing or soliciting a patient or patronage for or from a person licensed, certified, or registered by a state health care regulatory agency;
- Advertise any false, misleading, or deceptive information about the recovery house, including advertising or otherwise communicating about accreditation status that the recovery house does not have;

The **accrediting organization** shall **enforce** these through:

- **suspension of a violator's accreditation** for a period not to exceed six months while the accrediting organization conducts **an audit**; and
- after the audit is complete, **implementation of a corrective action plan or revocation of accreditation**.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

EFFECTIVE DATE: **September 1, 2023**

Effective **September 1, 2025**, the bill prohibits a recovery house that is not accredited from receiving state money.