

HOUSE No. 4882

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 7, 2026.

The committee on Higher Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1462) of Joshua Tarsky and Rebecca L. Rausch that certain public institutions of higher education create college campus recovery-focused housing programs to provide alcohol and drug-free environments for students recovering from substance use disorder, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4882) ought to pass.

For the committee,

DAVID M. ROGERS.

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act to support college students in recovery.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 15A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 50. (a) Public institutions of higher education, in which at least 25 per cent of the
4 undergraduate students live in on-campus housing, may establish a substance abuse recovery
5 housing program. The purpose of the program shall be to provide a supportive substance-free
6 dormitory environment that recognizes the unique risks and challenges that recovering students
7 face, and that provides support programs to recovering students who reside in the recovery
8 housing to assist their efforts to remain substance-free. The program shall include, but not be
9 limited to, trauma-informed on-site counseling, mentoring, peer support, and other appropriate
10 services. An institution may designate a floor, wing, or other designated area within a dormitory
11 building for the substance abuse recovery housing program.

12 (b) Each public institution of higher education may provide training in the administration
13 of opioid antagonists and responses to overdoses to students, faculty, and staff and shall make

14 available opioid antagonists for the purpose of treating overdoses to those who have received and
15 completed the provided training. Opioid antagonists shall be accessible to resident assistants who
16 have successfully completed the training course offered by their public institution of higher
17 education, for use in an emergency if a person is suspected of having an opioid overdose.

18 (c) Institutions may apply for any federal, state, corporate, or other grant funding that
19 may be available to implement the substance abuse recovery housing program, overdose training,
20 or access to opioid receptor antagonists.

21 (d) The department of higher education, in consultation with the department of public
22 health, shall adopt regulations and provide guidance to public institutions of higher education on
23 the implementation of this section.