

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 424 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, GALLOWAY, COHEN, MURT, READSHAW,
CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA, MILNE, GAINNEY, WATSON AND
DAVIS, JULY 20, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing Congress to examine existing Federal laws relating
2 to sober living arrangements.

3 WHEREAS, People with alcohol and other drug addictions may be
4 in need of a supportive, sober housing arrangements after
5 completing inpatient treatment for addiction; and

6 WHEREAS, Stable housing has been recognized as a verifiable
7 need for individuals in recovery, especially early recovery, but
8 is often difficult to obtain; and

9 WHEREAS, The goal is to find a place that is safe,
10 appropriately maintained and beneficial to the client's recovery
11 process; and

12 WHEREAS, Sober living recovery houses can be extremely
13 helpful in stabilizing early recovery as a person who is
14 addicted continues treatment and begins to search for
15 employment; and

16 WHEREAS, Congress added protections for persons with
17 disabilities to the Fair Housing Act of 1968 under the Fair

1 Housing Amendments Act of 1988; and

2 WHEREAS, These Federal statutes prohibit a broad range of
3 practices that discriminate against individuals on the basis of
4 race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status
5 ~~and~~, handicap or disability OR HAVING A SUBSTANCE ABUSE <--
6 DISORDER; and

7 WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines
8 disability; and

9 WHEREAS, The ADA requires public accommodation as well as
10 reasonable employer accommodation for persons with disabilities,
11 except when the accommodation would cause an undue hardship,
12 result in an undue burden or fundamentally alter the operation
13 of the business; and

14 WHEREAS, The Fair Housing Act as amended does not preempt
15 local zoning laws but is intended to prohibit the use of local
16 laws and ordinances to make housing unavailable to persons with
17 a disability solely on the basis of their disability; and

18 WHEREAS, Local governments must be sure to adhere to the
19 reasonable accommodation provisions of Federal law when enacting
20 changes to zoning ordinances or considering variance requests
21 from individuals with disabilities or their designees; ~~and~~ <--

22 ~~WHEREAS, A certain percentage of Housing and Urban~~
23 ~~Development funded housing dollars should be set aside for~~
24 ~~recovery housing;~~ therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to examine
27 existing Federal laws relating to sober living arrangements; and
28 be it further

29 RESOLVED, THAT A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF HOUSING AND URBAN <--
30 DEVELOPMENT-FUNDED HOUSING DOLLARS SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR

1 RECOVERY HOUSING; AND BE IT FURTHER

2 RESOLVED, That the examination note the impact of existing
3 laws on individuals in recovery and on communities; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That, when taxpayer dollars fund recovery housing,
6 the public be entitled to insist that certain minimal standards
7 be met in order to optimize the prospects for continued recovery
8 and for the health, safety and best interests of the public
9 client; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That sober recovery houses be an essential element
11 of recovery support services, along with recovery community
12 centers, peer recovery specialists and recovery coaches, all
13 designed to acknowledge the many pathways to recovery and to
14 support long-term recovery from addiction; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
16 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
17 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.