

SENATE No. 2680

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

SENATE, April 1, 2024.

The committee on Higher Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 847) of Rebecca L. Rausch, Russell E. Holmes, David F. DeCoste, Michael O. Moore and other members of the General Court for legislation to support college students in recovery; and (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 849) of John C. Velis for legislation relative to opioid overdose prevention in college housing, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2680).

For the committee,
Joanne M. Comerford

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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 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 48. (a) Public institutions of higher education, in which at least 25 per cent of the
3 undergraduate students live in on-campus housing, may establish a substance abuse recovery
4 housing program. The purpose of the program shall be to provide a supportive substance-free
5 dormitory environment that recognizes the unique risks and challenges that recovering students
6 face, and that provides support programs to recovering students who reside in the recovery
7 housing to assist their efforts to remain substance-free. The program shall include trauma-
8 informed on-site counseling, mentoring, peer support, and other appropriate services. An
9 institution may designate a floor, wing, or other designated area within a dormitory building for
10 the substance abuse recovery housing program.

11 (b) Each public institution of higher education may provide training in the administration
12 of opioid antagonists and responses to overdoses to students, faculty, and staff and shall make
13 available opioid antagonists for the purpose of treating overdoses to those who have received and

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

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

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