

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

S.F. No. 873

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOUSLEY and Draheim)

DATE
02/11/2021

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; requiring the commissioner of human services and the
1.3 commissioner of health to study oversight of sober housing programs; requiring
1.4 a report; appropriating money.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **STUDY ON POTENTIAL OVERSIGHT OF SOBER HOUSING**
1.7 **PROGRAMS.**

1.8 (a) The commissioner of human services, in collaboration with the commissioner of
1.9 health, shall study and make recommendations regarding the potential oversight of sober
1.10 housing programs for people with substance use disorders. At a minimum, this study must:

1.11 (1) to the extent practicable, identify the providers of sober housing programs for persons
1.12 with substance use disorders in Minnesota, and collect the following information for each
1.13 provider:

1.14 (i) the types of services provided;

1.15 (ii) the level of supervision provided;

1.16 (iii) the criteria to be admitted to and remain in the program;

1.17 (iv) the criteria for a program-initiated discharge of a resident;

1.18 (v) the program's licensure or certification, if any; and

1.19 (vi) the program's receipt of public funds, if applicable;

1.20 (2) identify the aspects of sober housing programs that may require oversight, including:

1.21 (i) the types of housing, supervision, and services that could require regulation;

- 2.1 (ii) resident admission and discharge criteria;
- 2.2 (iii) standards for health, safety, and management of sober housing programs;
- 2.3 (iv) evidence-based practices to support residents in their recovery while residing in
- 2.4 sober housing programs, including culturally competent care, support of individuals with
- 2.5 co-occurring mental illnesses, and medication-assisted treatment; and
- 2.6 (v) affiliation with an outpatient substance use disorder treatment program that provides
- 2.7 services to sober housing program residents;
- 2.8 (3) identify the types of sober housing program settings and services that may not require
- 2.9 oversight;
- 2.10 (4) conduct an analysis of sober housing program oversight in other states, using
- 2.11 information obtained from federal agencies, state organizations, or national organizations;
- 2.12 and
- 2.13 (5) recommend potential oversight options for sober housing programs, including:
- 2.14 (i) whether sober housing programs should be regulated by the Department of Human
- 2.15 Services, the Department of Health, or both;
- 2.16 (ii) any existing licensure or certification options; and
- 2.17 (iii) a process for sober housing program residents to submit formal complaints.
- 2.18 (b) This study must be developed in consultation with residents and former residents of
- 2.19 sober housing programs based in Minnesota, the Minnesota Society for Addiction Medicine,
- 2.20 NAMI Minnesota, the Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical
- 2.21 Health, the Minnesota Association of Sober Homes, a sober housing program located outside
- 2.22 the seven-county metropolitan area, and other interested parties identified by the
- 2.23 commissioner of human services. The Department of Human Services must complete and
- 2.24 submit a report on this study to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative
- 2.25 committees with jurisdiction over health care policy and finance on or before September
- 2.26 15, 2022.

2.27 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; STUDY ON SOBER HOUSING PROGRAM**

2.28 **OVERSIGHT.**

2.29 \$..... in fiscal year 2022 and \$..... in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general

2.30 fund to the commissioner of human services to conduct the sober housing program study

2.31 under section 1. This is a onetime appropriation.