



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Joint State Government Commission
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***Report Summary in Response to House Resolution 147 of 2019
Conversion of Unused State Property Into Drug Treatment Facilities***

In June 2019, House Resolution No. 147 directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a review of vacant property within the Commonwealth and to issue a report on suitability for its conversion into drug treatment centers to facilitate the recovery of Pennsylvanian's affected by substance use disorder.

In the last decade, an alarming rise in number of drug overdose deaths have shown the need to expand Pennsylvania's drug treatment capacity. Reusing vacant state property is one method of approaching this issue.

The report contains a review of existing laws that control how state and municipal properties are transferred to public and private entities and examples of previous state properties that have been converted to new uses. The report details the potential barriers to siting, licensing requirements, and the types of services commonly offered by drug treatment centers.

The report also provides an overview of vacant properties owned by the Commonwealth, and county-level statistics on drug fatalities. Reuse of vacant correctional institutions and medical facilities are covered in greater detail.

The report includes several recommendations to improve the stewardship of the state's vacant properties: to modernize DGS systems to inventory vacant property more accurately, consider disposition of state property for use by drug treatment entities on a case-by-case basis, expand the role of DDAP to assist providers in acquiring state property from DGS, and involve DCED in the redevelopment of state-owned property such as hospitals or correctional facilities in the event of closure. Further this report recommends that municipalities with space but only nominal resources explore the creation of drug free activity centers and that the State examine the potential for judicially acquired housing spaces to be reused as recovery homes.

The full report is available on our website <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>