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H.660

An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special Fund and  
Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund appropriations

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

\* \* \* Opioid Abatement Special Fund \* \* \*

Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the following sums shall be appropriated from the  
Opioid Abatement Special Fund established in 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

(1)(A) \$455,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach or  
case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for the  
provision of services that increase the motivation of and engagement with  
individuals with substance use disorder in settings such as police barracks,  
shelters, social service organizations, and elsewhere in the community.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that these positions shall  
be funded annually by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the  
Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(2)(A) \$1,600,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery  
residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences.

(B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences  
be funded annually by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the  
Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

1           (3)(A) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Health for syringe services.

2           (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that syringe services be  
3 funded annually by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the  
4 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

5           (4) \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of Corrections to provide peer  
6 recovery center coaches in Vermont correctional facilities and in probation and  
7 parole offices to provide group and individual coaching and reentry support,  
8 which shall not be used to cover administrative expenses.

9           (5) \$250,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of  
10 Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for  
11 individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports,  
12 transportation to recovery meetings and appointments, and clinical nursing  
13 programs.

14           (6)(A) \$1,200,000.00 to the Department of Health for both the creation  
15 of new opioid use disorder residential treatment beds at American Society of  
16 Addiction Medicine level 3.1 and for the creation of new recovery residence  
17 beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) certification level  
18 III or above with priority given to unserved and underserved regions of the  
19 State.

20           (B) It is a priority of the General Assembly to fund treatment as part  
21 of opioid use disorder recovery.

1           (7) \$248,000.00 to the Department of Health for the Prehospital  
2           Vermont EMS Buprenorphine Treatment (PREVENT) Program to expand  
3           training for emergency service providers on carrying buprenorphine and  
4           administering buprenorphine after administering naloxone.

5           (8) \$35,000.00 to the Department of Health to subsidize room and board  
6           for individuals in Rutland Mental Health Services' transitional housing  
7           program.

8           (9) \$237,646.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
9           Springfield Project ACTION to support public safety enhancement team  
10          coordinator positions in Bennington, Springfield, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury,  
11          and central Vermont for the purposes of providing administrative support,  
12          meeting facilitation, data tracking, outreach event coordination, and  
13          sustainability planning.

14          (10) \$500,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
15          recovery centers, upon consultation with the Vermont Recovery Network to  
16          determine allocations to individual recovery centers.

17          (11) \$287,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety to provide funding  
18          for expanding the Public Safety Enhancement Team's harm reduction and  
19          strategic community intervention efforts.

1           (12) \$875,000.00 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and  
2           Independent Living to fund specialized employment services to individuals  
3           with opioid use disorder through HireAbility Vermont.

4           (b) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 703, unless reverted by a future act of the  
5           General Assembly, the appropriations made in accordance with this section  
6           shall carry forward until fully expended.

7           Sec. 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; OVERDOSE PREVENTION CENTER

8           (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to consider the operational  
9           status and funding needs of Burlington’s overdose prevention center during the  
10           fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment process. If the General Assembly finds that  
11           a location for the overdose prevention center has been procured by lease or  
12           purchase, the overdose prevention center is being fit up for its intended use,  
13           and the overdose prevention center is currently or will imminently become  
14           operational, it intends to appropriate up to \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of  
15           Health for the purpose of awarding a grant to the City of Burlington for the  
16           work of the overdose prevention center.

17           (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to continue to appropriate funds  
18           annually from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund through at least fiscal year  
19           2028 for the purpose of awarding grants to the City of Burlington for the  
20           operation of the overdose prevention center, unless the Special Fund does not  
21           have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.



1 Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4772 is amended to read:

2 § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3 \* \* \*

4 (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad  
5 ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about  
6 their direct experience with related systems, including medication for opioid  
7 use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services,  
8 overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with  
9 the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that  
10 end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals  
11 with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support  
12 professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory  
13 Council, the Health Equity Advisory Commission, and other stakeholders to  
14 identify spending priorities as related to opioid use disorder prevention,  
15 intervention, treatment, and recovery services and harm reduction strategies for  
16 the purpose of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Department of  
17 Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid  
18 Abatement Special Fund. Each ongoing funding proposal considered by the  
19 Advisory Committee shall include a sustainability plan from the applicant to  
20 ensure consideration of future expenses and available resources apart from the  
21 Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:



1 Advisory Committee's written recommendations shall address how each  
2 recommendation meets one or more of the criteria listed in subsections 4774(b)  
3 and (c) of this subchapter. The Advisory Committee shall give priority  
4 consideration to services requiring funding on an ongoing basis.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 4774 is amended to read:

7 § 4774. OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

8 (a)(1) There is created the Opioid Abatement Special Fund, a special fund  
9 established and managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and  
10 administered by the Department of Health. The Opioid Abatement Special  
11 Fund shall consist of all abatement account fund monies disbursed to the  
12 Department from the national abatement account fund, the national opioid  
13 abatement trust, the supplemental opioid abatement fund, or any other  
14 settlement funds that must be utilized exclusively for opioid prevention,  
15 intervention, treatment, recovery, ~~and~~ harm reduction services, co-occurring  
16 mental health conditions, and co-occurring substance use disorders.

17 (2) The Department shall submit a spending plan to the General  
18 Assembly, informed by the recommendations of the Opioid Settlement  
19 Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 4772 of this subchapter,  
20 annually on or before January 15 and once funding is appropriated by the  
21 General Assembly from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund, the Department

1 shall request to have the funds formally released from the national abatement  
2 account fund, the national opioid abatement trust, the supplemental opioid  
3 abatement fund, or any other settlement funds that must be utilized exclusively  
4 for opioid prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction  
5 services, co-occurring mental health conditions, and co-occurring substance  
6 use disorders. The Department shall disburse monies from the Opioid  
7 Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 3.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION REVIEW; FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL

10 SUSPENSION

11 Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 4772(e), the Opioid Settlement Advisory  
12 Committee shall not accept funding proposals or make funding  
13 recommendations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year  
14 2028, unless a program or initiative was previously identified in statute as  
15 intended for annual funding. It instead shall review the outcomes of programs  
16 and initiatives previously funded through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund  
17 to assess effectiveness, long-term sustainability, and the appropriateness of the  
18 Opioid Abatement Special Fund as a funding source, where applicable, to  
19 inform recommendations made in fiscal year 2029 and thereafter.

1       Sec. 8. QUARTERLY REPORTING; EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID

2                   ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND MONIES

3           The Department of Health shall submit to the General Assembly quarterly  
4 reports regarding expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.  
5 Specifically, the reports shall identify funds appropriated from the Special  
6 Fund that remain unobligated or unspent, or both, and shall include an  
7 explanation as to why the funds have not been fully distributed. Reports due  
8 on October 1, 2026, and July 1, 2027, shall be submitted to the Joint Fiscal  
9 Committee. Reports due on January 1, 2027, and April 1, 2027, shall be  
10 submitted to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services  
11 and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare.  
12 The Department shall post reports required pursuant to this section on its  
13 website.

14       Sec. 9. REVERSIONS

15           Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027,  
16 the following amounts shall revert to the Opioid Abatement Special Fund from  
17 the accounts indicated:

18 <u>3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Prov Satellites</u>	<u>\$444,000.00</u>
19 <u>3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Wound Care</u>	<u>\$8,287.34</u>
20 <u>3420892501 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Stabilization Beds</u>	<u>\$1,000,000.00</u>



1 expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response  
2 to increasing community need;

3 (3) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
4 Interaction: Friends for Change to increase access to community-based  
5 therapy, housing, crisis, medical, recovery, and employment supports for youth  
6 in Windham County; and

7 (4) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Winooski  
8 Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and stipends for  
9 partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged youth during  
10 school with family engagement.

11 Sec. 12. 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is amended to read:

12 § 4812. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SPECIAL FUND

13 \* \* \*

14 (e) As part of its annual budget presentation, the Department shall report to  
15 the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the  
16 Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on its  
17 specific spending proposal from the Substance Misuse Prevention Special  
18 Fund for the coming fiscal year. The report shall include an estimate of the  
19 monies in the Special Fund anticipated to remain unallocated at the end of the  
20 fiscal year.

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\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

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Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.