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H.660

An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special Fund appropriations

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

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) \$900,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
15 recovery resident beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)
16 certification of level III or above.

17 (B) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
18 National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)-certified recovery
19 resident beds in Brattleboro, Middlebury, Addison, Randolph, Chester, St.
20 Albans, or any other identified region of the State.

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 and administering
4 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) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate
15 Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in
16 Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors,
17 prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments.

18 (11) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the
19 Greater Falls Connections to enhance youth engagement and education and to
20 expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response
21 to increasing community need.

1 (12) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
2 Interaction: Friends for Change to increase access to community-based
3 therapy, housing, crisis, medical, recovery, and employment supports for youth
4 in Windham County.

5 (13) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
6 Winooski Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and
7 stipends for partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged
8 youth during school with family engagement.

9 (b) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 703, unless reverted by a future act of the
10 General Assembly, the appropriations made in accordance with this section
11 shall carryforward until fully expended.

12 Sec. 2. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 22, Sec. 14, as amended by 2024 Acts and
13 Resolves No. 113, Sec. C.112, is further amended to read:

14 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

15 In fiscal year 2023, the following monies shall be appropriated from the

16 Opioid Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

17 (1)(A) ~~\$1,500,000 divided equally between four opioid treatment~~
18 ~~programs~~ to cover costs associated with partnering with other health care
19 providers to expand satellite locations for the dosing of medications, including
20 costs associated with the satellite locations' physical facilities, staff time at the

1 satellite locations, and staff time at opioid treatment programs to prepare
2 medications and coordinate with satellite locations;

3 (B) the satellite locations established pursuant to this subdivision (1)
4 shall be located in Addison County; and eastern or southern Vermont; ~~and in a~~
5 ~~facility operated by the Department of Corrections;~~

6 (2) \$500,000 to establish a ~~second Chittenden Clinic Addiction~~
7 ~~Treatment Center~~ satellite location in northwestern Vermont;

8 * * *

9 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4772 is amended to read:

10 § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 * * *

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad
13 ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about
14 their direct experience with related systems, including medication for opioid
15 use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services,
16 overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with
17 the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that
18 end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals
19 with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support
20 professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory
21 Council, the Health Equity Advisory Commission, and other stakeholders to

1 identify spending priorities as related to opioid use disorder prevention,
2 intervention, treatment, and recovery services and harm reduction strategies for
3 the purpose of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Department of
4 Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid
5 Abatement Special Fund. Each ongoing funding proposal considered by the
6 Advisory Committee shall include a sustainability plan from the applicant to
7 ensure consideration of future expenses and available resources apart from the
8 Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:

9 (1) the impact of the opioid crisis on communities throughout Vermont,
10 including communities' abatement needs and proposals for abatement
11 strategies and responses;

12 (2) the perspectives of and proposals from opioid use disorder
13 prevention coalitions, recovery centers, and medication for opioid use disorder
14 providers; and

15 (3) the ongoing challenges of the opioid crisis on marginalized
16 populations, including individuals who have a lived experience of opioid use
17 disorder.

18 * * *

19 Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION REVIEW; FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL

20 SUSPENSION

1 (a) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department of Health shall review
2 all previous appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund and make
3 recommendations to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, the House
4 Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and
5 Welfare regarding which appropriations could be funded in future years by the
6 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund established pursuant to 18 V.S.A.
7 § 4812.

8 (b) The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall not accept new
9 funding proposals from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year
10 2028, unless a proposal was previously identified in statute as intended for
11 annual funding. It instead shall review the outcomes of programs and
12 initiatives previously funded through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund to
13 assess effectiveness, long-term sustainability, and the appropriateness of the
14 Opioid Abatement Special Fund as a funding source, where applicable.

15 Sec. 5. REVERSIONS

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

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

1 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.