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H.660

~~SHORT FORM~~

Introduced by Representatives Maguire of Rutland City, Bishop of Colchester,
Cole of Hartford, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Noyes
of Wolcott, and Wood of Waterbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; opioid use disorder; Opioid Abatement Special
Fund; fiscal year 2027 appropriations

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make fiscal
year 2027 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.

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:

~~(TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT FORM BILLS)~~

~~*** Opioid Abatement Special Fund ***~~

~~Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND~~

~~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.~~

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

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

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

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

~~(6)(A) \$900,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new recovery resident beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) certification of level III or above.~~

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

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

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

~~(9) \$237,646.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Springfield Project Action to support public safety enhancement team~~

~~coordinator positions in Bennington, Springfield, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury, and central Vermont for the purposes of providing administrative support, meeting facilitation, data tracking, outreach event coordination, and sustainability planning.~~

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

~~Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND~~

~~In fiscal year 2023, the following monies shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4774:~~

~~(1)(A) \$1,500,000 divided equally between four opioid treatment programs \$1,056,000 to cover costs associated with partnering with other health care providers to expand satellite locations for the dosing of medications, including costs associated with the satellite locations' physical facilities, staff time at the satellite locations, and staff time at opioid treatment programs to prepare medications and coordinate with satellite locations;~~

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

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

~~***~~

~~Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 22, Sec. 14 is amended to read:~~

~~Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND~~

~~In fiscal year 2023, the following monies shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4774:~~

~~* * *~~

~~(6) ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$91,712.66 to implement a wound care telehealth consultation pilot program for the purpose of utilizing wound care experts to provide telehealth drop-in appointments to address syringe use by individuals with opioid use disorder;~~

~~* * *~~

~~Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 115, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:~~

~~Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME~~

~~APPROPRIATIONS~~

~~* * *~~

~~(d) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for the following:~~

~~* * *~~

~~(2) ~~\$1,000,000~~ Opioid Abatement Special Fund for grants to providers to establish community-based stabilization beds for individuals transitioning between substance use disorder residential treatment and the recovery system;~~

~~[Repeated.]~~

* * *

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

§ 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

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

~~apart from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:~~

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

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

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

~~* * *~~

~~Sec. 6. FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL SUSPENSION~~

~~The Opioid Settlement Advisory Council shall not accept new funding proposals from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year 2028, unless a proposal was previously identified in statute as intended for annual funding. It instead shall review the outcomes of programs and initiatives previously funded through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund to assess effectiveness and long-term sustainability, where applicable.~~

Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund

Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION; SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION

SERVICES

In fiscal year 2027, the following monies shall be appropriated from the Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund established pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4812:

(1) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors, prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments;

(2) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Greater Falls Connections to enhance youth engagement and education and to expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response to increasing community need;

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

(4) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Windoski Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and stipends for

~~partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary aged youth during school with family engagement.~~

~~*** Effective Date ***~~

~~Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE~~

~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.~~

~~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.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(10) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors, prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments.

(11) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Greater Falls Connections to enhance youth engagement and education and to

expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response to increasing community need.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

In fiscal year 2023, the following monies shall be appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

(1)(A) ~~\$1,500,000 divided equally between four opioid treatment programs~~ to cover costs associated with partnering with other health care providers to expand satellite locations for the dosing of medications, including

costs associated with the satellite locations' physical facilities, staff time at the satellite locations, and staff time at opioid treatment programs to prepare medications and coordinate with satellite locations;

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

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

* * *

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

§ 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about their direct experience with related systems, including medication for opioid use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services, overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory

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

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

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

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

* * *

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION REVIEW; FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL

SUSPENSION

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

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

Sec. 5. REVERSIONS

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

3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Prov Satellites *444,000.00*

3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Wound Care

8,287.34

3420892501 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Stabilization Beds

1,000,000.00

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.