

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.
3 218 entitled “An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid
4 Abatement Special Fund” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 1 in its entirety
6 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

8 (a) In fiscal year 2026, the following sums shall be appropriated from the
9 Opioid Abatement Special Fund established in 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

10 (1)(A) \$1,976,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach
11 or case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for
12 the provision of services that increase motivation of and engagement with
13 individuals with substance use disorder in settings such as police barracks,
14 shelters, social service organizations, and elsewhere in the community.

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

18 (2) \$76,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
19 Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform to fund an outreach worker position.

20 (3)(A) \$1,400,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery
21 residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences.

1 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences
2 be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the
3 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

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

5 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that syringe services be
6 funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2026 levels, unless and until the
7 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

8 (5)(A) \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of Health for the purpose of
9 awarding grants to the City of Burlington for establishing an overdose
10 prevention center upon submission of a grant proposal that has been approved
11 by the Burlington City Council and meets the requirements of 18 V.S.A.
12 § 4256, including the guidelines developed by the Department of Health.

13 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly to continue to appropriate
14 funds from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund through fiscal year 2028 for
15 the purpose of awarding grants to the City of Burlington for the operation of
16 the overdose prevention center, unless and until the Special Fund does not have
17 sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

18 (6) \$800,000.00 for distribution as follows:

19 (A) not more than \$35,000.00 to the Department of Corrections for
20 distribution to Pathways Vermont to implement a contingency management

1 pilot program in Chittenden County for individuals under the supervision of
2 the Department of Corrections; and

3 (B) the remainder to the Department of Health for grants to providers
4 for ongoing support for contingency management.

5 (7) \$32,157.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the
6 Brattleboro Fire Department to establish community training programs on the
7 administration of opioid antagonists, CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed
8 protocols.

9 (8) \$44,229.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the
10 Champlain Housing Trust to continue a pilot program providing access to
11 wound care and preventative health care in three low-barrier shelters within
12 Chittenden County.

13 (9) \$800,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of
14 Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for
15 individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports and
16 clinical nursing programs.

17 (10) \$309,000.00 to the Department of Health for Health Care and
18 Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont's Project Connectionworks to
19 reduce opioid use disorder morbidity and mortality in Windham County
20 through prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

1 (11) \$50,000.00 to the Judicial Branch to train Vermont’s judges on
2 issues related to opioid use disorder and strategies for use in dockets statewide.

3 (12) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate
4 Youth Services to establish Healthy Youth Program counselors at the
5 Basement Teen Center at Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Washington County.

6 (13) \$100,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Friends
7 for Change’s Youth Center in Bellows Falls for the purpose of delivering
8 intervention strategies and harm reduction supports to youth and young adults.

9 (14) \$170,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
10 Spectrum Youth and Family Services for two new positions to expand opioid
11 use disorder screening, treatment, and case management services to youth in
12 Chittenden and Franklin Counties.

13 (15) \$80,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Prevent
14 Child Abuse Vermont for the purpose of teaching parenting skills and
15 providing social and emotional parenting supports for individuals with opioid
16 use disorder.

17 (16) \$850,000.00 to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and
18 Independent Living for distribution to HireAbility Vermont to provide
19 specialized employment services for individuals with opioid use disorder in
20 Burlington, Newport, Rutland, and Bennington.

1 (17) \$550,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
2 Northeast Kingdom Community Action to hire four peer support specialists to
3 assist individuals with opioid use disorder who are transitioning out of
4 homelessness into safe, permanent housing.

5 (18) \$150,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
6 Connecticut Valley Addiction Services, Inc. to expand opioid use treatment in
7 rural Windsor County.

8 (19) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
9 Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform and the Johnson Health Center to
10 continue and improve the Managed Medical Response Partnership.

11 (20) \$30,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
12 Treatment Associates of Washington County Mental Health to hire an
13 embedded recovery coach.

14 (21) \$20,824.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
15 Umbrella to provide integrated services between domestic and sexual violence
16 providers and partners in recovery in northeastern Vermont.

17 (b) All grant agreements associated with funds appropriated pursuant to
18 this section shall require outcome and measurements data to be collected and
19 reported to the department issuing the grant and to the Opioid Settlement
20 Advisory Committee.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE