

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.
3 660 entitled “An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special
4 Fund appropriations” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

10 (1)(A) \$455,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach or
11 case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for the
12 provision of services that increase the 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)(A) \$1,600,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery
19 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 by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the
3 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

4 (3)(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 by the Opioid Abatement Special Fund unless and until the
7 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

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

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

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

20 (B) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
21 National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)-certified recovery

1 resident beds in Brattleboro, Middlebury, Addison, Randolph, Chester, St.
2 Albans, or any other identified region of the State.

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

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

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

16 (10) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate
17 Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in
18 Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors,
19 prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments.

20 (11) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the
21 Greater Falls Connections to enhance youth engagement and education and to

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

3 (12) \$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.

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

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

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

16 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

19 (1)(A) \$1,500,000 ~~divided equally between four opioid treatment~~
20 ~~programs~~ to cover costs associated with partnering with other health care
21 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;

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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

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

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

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

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

19 * * *

20 Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATION REVIEW;** FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL
21 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 and long-term sustainability, where applicable.

14 Sec. 5. 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 3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Prov Satellites	444,000.00
19 3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Wound Care	8,287.34
20 3420892501 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Stabilization Beds	1,000,000.00

1 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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8 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE