

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services 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 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 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)(A) \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of Health for the purpose of  
19 awarding grants to the City of Burlington for establishing an overdose  
20 prevention center upon submission of a grant proposal that has been approved

1 by the Burlington City Council and meets the requirements of 18 V.S.A.  
2 § 4256, including the guidelines developed by the Department of Health.

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

8 (3)(A) \$1,200,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery  
9 residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences,  
10 including at least two new recovery residences certified by the Vermont  
11 Alliance for Recovery Residences.

12 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences  
13 be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2025 levels, unless and until the  
14 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

15 (4)(A) \$1,050,000.00 to the Department of Health for syringe services.

16 (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that syringe services be  
17 funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2025 levels, unless and until the  
18 Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

19 (5) \$800,000.00 to the Department of Health for grants to providers for  
20 ongoing support for contingency management.

1           (6) \$32,157.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the  
2           Brattleboro Fire Department to establish community training programs on the  
3           administration of opioid antagonists, CPR, first aid, and Stop the Bleed  
4           protocols.

5           (7) \$44,229.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the  
6           Champlain Housing Trust to continue a pilot program providing access to  
7           wound care and preventative health care in three low-barrier shelters within  
8           Chittenden County.

9           (8) \$800,000.00 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 and  
12          clinical nursing programs.

13          (9) \$309,000.00 to the Department of Health for HCRS' Project  
14          Connectionworks to reduce opioid use disorder morbidity and mortality in  
15          Windham County through prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

16          (10) \$35,000.00 to the Department of Corrections for distribution to  
17          Pathways Vermont to implement a contingency management pilot program in  
18          Chittenden County for individuals under the supervision of the Department of  
19          Corrections.

20          (11) \$50,000.00 to the Judicial Branch to train Vermont's judges on  
21          issues related to opioid use disorder and strategies for use in dockets statewide.

1           (12) \$76,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
2           Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform to fund an outreach worker position.

3           (13) \$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           (14) \$100,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Friends  
7           for Change’s Youth Center for the purpose of delivering intervention strategies  
8           and harm reduction supports to youth and young adults.

9           (15) \$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          (16) \$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          (17) \$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           (18) \$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           (19) \$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           (20) \$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          (21) \$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          (22) \$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.

20          Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4772 is amended to read:

21          § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Health shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Committee to occur on or before June 30, 2022.

(2) Annually, the Advisory Committee shall elect a vice chair from among its members.

(3) The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly but not more than 12 times per calendar year.

~~(3)~~(4) The Advisory Committee shall adopt procedures to govern its proceedings and organization, including voting procedures and how the staggered terms shall be apportioned among members.

~~(4)~~(5) All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be consistent with Vermont’s Open Meeting Law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

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Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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2 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE