

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services 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 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) \$1,750,000.00 (\$1,400,000.00) to the Department of Health for  
19 recovery residences certified by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery  
20 Residences.

1                   (B) It is the intent of the General Assembly that recovery residences  
2                   be funded annually at not less than fiscal year 2027 levels, unless and until the  
3                   Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

4                   (3) \$1,100,000.00 (\$1,250,000.00) to the Department of Corrections to  
5                   provide peer recovery center coaches in Vermont correctional facilities and in  
6                   probation and parole offices to provide group and individual coaching and  
7                   reentry support.

8                   (4) \$250,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of  
9                   Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for  
10                   individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports,  
11                   transportation to recovery meetings and appointments, and clinical nursing  
12                   programs.

13                   (5) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution the  
14                   Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences to provide initial entry fees and  
15                   rent for individuals newly entering recovery housing.

16                   (6) \$900,000.00 (\$1,200,000.00) to the Department of Health for the  
17                   creation of new recovery resident beds at National Alliance for Recovery  
18                   Residences (NARR) level III or higher.

19                   (7) \$248,000.00 to the Department of Health for the Prehospital  
20                   Vermont EMS Buprenorphine Treatment (PREVENT) Program to expand

1       training for emergency service providers on carrying and administering  
2       buprenorphine after administering naloxone.

3       (8) \$287,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety to expand the Public  
4       Safety Enhancement Team's harm reduction and strategic community  
5       intervention efforts in more Vermont communities.

6       (9) \$35,000.00 to the Department of Health to subsidize room and board  
7       for individuals in Rutland Mental Health Services' transitional housing  
8       program.

9       (10) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution Elevate  
10      Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in  
11      Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors,  
12      prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments.

13      (11) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution the  
14      Greater Falls Connection to enhance youth engagement and education and to  
15      expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response  
16      to increasing community need.

17      (12) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
18      Interaction: Friends for Change to increase access to community-based  
19      therapy, housing, crisis, medical, recovery, and employment supports for youth  
20      in Windham County.

1                   (13) \$237,646.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
2                   Springfield Project Action to support public safety enhancement team  
3                   coordinator positions in Bennington, Springfield, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury,  
4                   and Central Vermont for the purposes of providing administrative support,  
5                   meeting facilitation, data tracking, outreach event coordination, and  
6                   sustainability planning.

7                   (14) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the  
8                   Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) and Recovery Partners  
9                   of Vermont to establish new recovery residences in the Brattleboro,  
10                  Middlebury, Addison, Randolph, Chester, and St. Albans regions.

11                  (15) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
12                  Winooski Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and  
13                  stipends for partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged  
14                  youth during school with family engagement.

15                  Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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3 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 Representative \_\_\_\_\_

6 FOR THE COMMITTEE