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H.660

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:

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.

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

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

5           (4) \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of Corrections to provide peer  
6           recovery center coaches in Vermont correctional facilities and in probation and  
7           parole offices to provide group and individual coaching and reentry support,  
8           which shall not be used to cover administrative expenses.

9           (5) \$250,000.00 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,  
12          transportation to recovery meetings and appointments, and clinical nursing  
13          programs.

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

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

1           (7) \$248,000.00 to the Department of Health for the Prehospital  
2           Vermont EMS Buprenorphine Treatment (PREVENT) Program to expand  
3           training for emergency service providers on carrying and administering  
4           buprenorphine after administering naloxone.

5           (8) \$35,000.00 to the Department of Health to subsidize room and board  
6           for individuals in Rutland Mental Health Services' transitional housing  
7           program.

8           (9) \$237,646.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
9           Springfield Project Action to support public safety enhancement team  
10           coordinator positions in Bennington, Springfield, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury,  
11           and central Vermont for the purposes of providing administrative support,  
12           meeting facilitation, data tracking, outreach event coordination, and  
13           sustainability planning.

14           (10) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate  
15           Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in  
16           Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors,  
17           prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments.

18           (11) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the  
19           Greater Falls Connections to enhance youth engagement and education and to  
20           expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response  
21           to increasing community need.

1           (12) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
2           Interaction: Friends for Change to increase access to community-based  
3           therapy, housing, crisis, medical, recovery, and employment supports for youth  
4           in Windham County.

5           (13) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to  
6           Winooski Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and  
7           stipends for partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged  
8           youth during school with family engagement.

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

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

14          Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

15          In fiscal year 2023, the following monies shall be appropriated from the

16          Opioid Abatement Special Fund pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4774:

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

1 satellite locations, and staff time at opioid treatment programs to prepare  
2 medications and coordinate with satellite locations;

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

6 (2) \$500,000 to establish a ~~second Chittenden Clinic Addiction~~  
7 ~~Treatment Center~~ satellite location in northwestern Vermont;

8 \* \* \*

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

10 § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 \* \* \*

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad  
13 ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about  
14 their direct experience with related systems, including medication for opioid  
15 use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services,  
16 overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with  
17 the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that  
18 end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals  
19 with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support  
20 professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory  
21 Council, the Health Equity Advisory Commission, and other stakeholders to

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

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

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

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

18 \* \* \*

19 Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION REVIEW; FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL

20 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, long-term sustainability, and the appropriateness of the  
14       Opioid Abatement Special Fund as a funding source, where applicable.

15       Sec. 5. REVERSIONS

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

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 19 <u>3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Prov Satellites</u>    | <u>444,000.00</u>   |
| 20 <u>3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Wound Care</u>         | <u>8,287.34</u>     |
| 21 <u>3420892501 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Stabilization Beds</u> | <u>1,000,000.00</u> |

1       Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

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