

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 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 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

11 (1)(A) \$455,000.00 to the Department of Health to fund 26 outreach or
12 case management staff positions within the preferred provider network for the
13 provision of services that increase the motivation of and engagement with
14 individuals with substance use disorder in settings such as police barracks,
15 shelters, social service organizations, and elsewhere in the community.

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

19 (2)(A) \$1,600,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery
20 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) \$1,200,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
18 recovery residence beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences
19 (NARR) certification level III or above.

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

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

3 (8) \$35,000.00 to the Department of Health to subsidize room and board
4 for individuals in Rutland Mental Health Services' transitional housing
5 program.

6 (9) \$237,646.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
7 Springfield Project ACTION to support public safety enhancement team
8 coordinator positions in Bennington, Springfield, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury,
9 and central Vermont for the purposes of providing administrative support,
10 meeting facilitation, data tracking, outreach event coordination, and
11 sustainability planning.

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

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

20 (12) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
21 Interaction: Friends for Change to increase access to community-based

1 therapy, housing, crisis, medical, recovery, and employment supports for
2 youths in Windham County.

3 (13) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
4 Winooski Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and
5 stipends for partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged
6 youths during school with family engagement.

7 (14) \$800,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
8 recovery centers.

9 (15) \$287,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety to provide funding
10 for expanding the Public Safety Enhancement Team’s harm reduction and
11 strategic community intervention efforts.

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

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

17 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

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

1 providers to expand satellite locations for the dosing of medications, including
2 costs associated with the satellite locations' physical facilities, staff time at the
3 satellite locations, and staff time at opioid treatment programs to prepare
4 medications and coordinate with satellite locations;

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

8 (2) \$500,000 to establish a ~~second Chittenden Clinic Addiction~~
9 ~~Treatment Center~~ satellite location in northwestern Vermont;

10 * * *

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

12 § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13 * * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 SUSPENSION

3 The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall not accept funding
4 proposals from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year 2028, unless
5 a proposal previously received funding from the Special Fund. It instead shall
6 review the outcomes of programs and initiatives previously funded through the
7 Opioid Abatement Special Fund to assess effectiveness, long-term
8 sustainability, and the appropriateness of the Opioid Abatement Special Fund
9 as a funding source, where applicable. If funds are available after making
10 fiscal year 2028 appropriations recommendations for previously funded
11 programs and initiatives, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall
12 identify specific areas of focus and shall make funding recommendations
13 within those areas based on needs assessments and statewide data rather than
14 requesting new proposals.

15 Sec. 5. QUARTERLY REPORTING; EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID

16 ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND MONIES

17 The Department of Health shall submit to the General Assembly quarterly
18 reports regarding expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.
19 Specifically, the reports shall identify funds appropriated from the Special
20 Fund that remain unobligated or unspent, or both, and shall include an
21 explanation as to why the funds have not been fully distributed. Reports due

1 on October 1, 2026, and July 1, 2027, shall be submitted to the Joint Fiscal
2 Committee. Reports due on January 1, 2027, and April 1, 2027, shall be
3 submitted to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services
4 and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare.
5 The Department shall post reports required pursuant to this section on its
6 website.

7 Sec. **6**. REVERSIONS

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

11 <u>3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Prov Satellites</u>	<u>\$444,000.00</u>
12 <u>3420892313 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Wound Care</u>	<u>\$8,287.34</u>
13 <u>3420892501 VDH-Opioid Sp. Fund Stabilization Beds</u>	<u>\$1,000,000.00</u>

14 Sec. **7**. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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2 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE