

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 ***** Opioid Abatement Special Fund *****

9 Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

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

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

20 (2)(A) \$1,600,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery
21 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) \$800,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
13 recovery centers.

14 (11) \$287,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety to provide funding
15 for expanding the Public Safety Enhancement Team's harm reduction and
16 strategic community intervention efforts.

17 (12)(A) \$1,100,000.00 to the Department of Health for the purpose of
18 awarding grants to the City of Burlington to establish an overdose prevention
19 center, provided, however, that the Department shall not distribute funding
20 until a location for the overdose prevention center has been procured by lease
21 or purchase, the overdose prevention center is being fit up for its intended use,

1 and the overdose prevention center is currently or will imminently become
2 operational.

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

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

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

13 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

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

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

4 (2) \$500,000 to establish a ~~second Chittenden Clinic Addiction~~
5 ~~Treatment Center~~ satellite location in northwestern Vermont;

6 * * *

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

8 § 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9 * * *

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

1 the purpose of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Department of
2 Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid
3 Abatement Special Fund. Each ongoing funding proposal considered by the
4 Advisory Committee shall include a sustainability plan from the applicant to
5 ensure consideration of future expenses and available resources apart from the
6 Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:

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

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

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

16 * * *

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

18 SUSPENSION

19 The Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee shall not accept funding
20 proposals from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year 2028, unless
21 a proposal was previously identified in statute as intended for annual funding.

1 It instead shall review the outcomes of programs and initiatives previously
2 funded through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund to assess effectiveness,
3 long-term sustainability, and the appropriateness of the Opioid Abatement
4 Special Fund as a funding source, where applicable. If funds are available
5 after making fiscal year 2028 appropriations recommendations for previously
6 funded programs and initiatives, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
7 shall identify specific areas of focus and shall make funding recommendations
8 within those areas based on needs assessments and statewide data rather than
9 requesting new proposals.

10 **Sec. 5. QUARTERLY REPORTING; EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID**

11 **ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND MONIES**

12 The Department of Health shall submit to the General Assembly quarterly
13 reports regarding expenditures from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund.
14 Specifically, the reports shall identify funds appropriated from the Special
15 Fund that remain unobligated or unspent, or both, and shall include an
16 explanation as to why the funds have not been fully distributed. Reports due
17 on October 1, 2026, and July 1, 2027, shall be submitted to the Joint Fiscal
18 Committee. Reports due on January 1, 2027, and April 1, 2027, shall be
19 submitted to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services
20 and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare.

1 The Department shall post reports required pursuant to this section on its
2 website.

3 Sec. 6. REVERSIONS

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

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

10 * * * Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund * * *

11 Sec. 7. APPROPRIATIONS; SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION

12 SPECIAL FUND

13 In fiscal year 2027, the following monies shall be appropriated from the
14 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund established pursuant to 18 V.S.A.
15 § 4812:

16 (1) \$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 (2) \$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 (3) \$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; and

7 (4) \$26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Winooski
8 Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and stipends for
9 partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged youth during
10 school with family engagement.

11 Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4812 is amended to read:

12 § 4812. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION SPECIAL FUND

13 * * *

14 (e) As part of its annual budget presentation, the Department shall report to
15 the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the
16 Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare on its
17 specific spending proposal from the Substance Misuse Prevention Special
18 Fund for the coming fiscal year. The report shall include an estimate of the
19 monies in the Special Fund anticipated to remain unallocated at the end of the
20 fiscal year.

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***** Effective Date *****

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special Fund and Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund appropriations”

(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE