

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) \$1,600,000.00 to the Department of Health for recovery
19 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 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 to the Department of Corrections to provide peer
5 recovery center coaches in Vermont correctional facilities and in probation and
6 parole offices to provide group and individual coaching and reentry support,
7 which shall not be used to cover administrative expenses.

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) \$1,200,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
14 recovery resident beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)
15 level III or higher in geographically diverse regions of the State.

16 (6) \$248,000.00 to the Department of Health for the Prehospital
17 Vermont EMS Buprenorphine Treatment (PREVENT) Program to expand
18 training for emergency service providers on carrying and administering
19 buprenorphine after administering naloxone.

1 (7) \$35,000.00 to the Department of Health to subsidize room and board
2 for individuals in Rutland Mental Health Services' transitional housing
3 program.

4 (8) \$237,646.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
5 Springfield Project Action to support public safety enhancement team
6 coordinator positions in Bennington, Springfield, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury,
7 and central Vermont for the purposes of providing administrative support,
8 meeting facilitation, data tracking, outreach event coordination, and
9 sustainability planning.

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

12 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

15 (1)(A) ~~\$1,500,000 divided equally between four opioid treatment~~
16 ~~programs~~ \$1,056,000 to cover costs associated with partnering with other
17 health care providers to expand satellite locations for the dosing of
18 medications, including costs associated with the satellite locations' physical
19 facilities, staff time at the satellite locations, and staff time at opioid treatment
20 programs to prepare 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. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 22, Sec. 14 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

11 * * *

12 (6) ~~\$100,000.00~~ \$91,712.66 to implement a wound care telehealth
13 consultation pilot program for the purpose of utilizing wound care experts to
14 provide telehealth drop-in appointments to address syringe use by individuals
15 with opioid use disorder;

16 * * *

17 Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

18 Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ONE-TIME

19 APPROPRIATIONS

20 * * *

1 (d) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2025, funds are appropriated for
2 the following:

3 * * *

4 (2) ~~\$1,000,000 Opioid Abatement Special Fund for grants to providers~~
5 ~~to establish community based stabilization beds for individuals transitioning~~
6 ~~between substance use disorder residential treatment and the recovery system;~~
7 [Repealed.]

8 * * *

9 Sec. 5. 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, and other stakeholders to identify spending priorities as related to

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

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

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

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

17 * * *

18 **Sec. 6. FISCAL YEAR 2028 PROPOSAL SUSPENSION**

19 The Opioid Settlement Advisory Council shall not accept new funding
20 proposals from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year 2028. It
21 instead shall review the outcomes of programs and initiatives previously

1 funded through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund to assess effectiveness and
2 long-term sustainability, where applicable.

3 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

12 (Committee vote: _____)

13 _____

14 Representative _____

15 FOR THE COMMITTEE