

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 * * * Opioid Abatement Special Fund * * *

8 Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

9 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)(A) \$900,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
18 recovery resident beds.

19 (B) \$300,000.00 to the Department of Health for the creation of new
20 recovery resident beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR)

1 for level III or above in Brattleboro, Middlebury, Addison, Randolph, Chester,
2 St. Albans, or any other identified region of the State.

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

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

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

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

18 Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

* * *

* * *

VT LEG #386932 v.5

* * *

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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[Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4772 is amended to read:

§ 4772. OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall demonstrate broad ongoing consultation with individuals living with opioid use disorder about their direct experience with related systems, including medication for opioid use disorder, residential treatment, recovery services, harm reduction services, overdose, supervision by the Department of Corrections, and involvement with

1 the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division. To that
2 end, the Advisory Committee shall demonstrate consultation with individuals
3 with direct lived experience of opioid use disorder, frontline support
4 professionals, the Substance Misuse Oversight Prevention and Advisory
5 Council, the Health Equity Advisory Commission, and other stakeholders to
6 identify spending priorities as related to opioid use disorder prevention,
7 intervention, treatment, and recovery services and harm reduction strategies for
8 the purpose of providing recommendations to the Governor, the Department of
9 Health, and the General Assembly on prioritizing spending from the Opioid
10 Abatement Special Fund. Each ongoing funding proposal considered by the
11 Advisory Council shall include a sustainability plan from the applicant to
12 ensure consideration of future expenses and available resources apart from the
13 Opioid Abatement Special Fund. The Advisory Committee shall consider:

14 (1) the impact of the opioid crisis on communities throughout Vermont,
15 including communities' abatement needs and proposals for abatement
16 strategies and responses;

17 (2) the perspectives of and proposals from opioid use disorder
18 prevention coalitions, recovery centers, and medication for opioid use disorder
19 providers; and

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

4 * * *

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

6 The Opioid Settlement Advisory Council shall not accept new funding
7 proposals from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund for fiscal year 2028, unless
8 a proposal was previously identified in statute as intended for annual funding.
9 It instead shall review the outcomes of programs and initiatives previously
10 funded through the Opioid Abatement Special Fund to assess effectiveness and
11 long-term sustainability, where applicable.

12 * * * Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund * * *

13 **Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION; SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION**
14 **SERVICES**

15 In fiscal year 2027, the following monies shall be appropriated from the
16 Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund established pursuant to 18 V.S.A.
17 § 4812:

18 (1) \$288,935.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Elevate
19 Youth Services to support the creation of a low-barrier, drop-in teen center in
20 Barre to provide food, activities, positive adults role models, peer counselors,
21 prevention and recovery programming, and direct connection to treatments;

1 (2) \$124,999.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the
2 Greater Falls Connections to enhance youth engagement and education and to
3 expand prevention-focused staffing and youth programming space in response
4 to increasing community need;

5 (3) \$200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to
6 Interaction: Friends for Change to increase access to community-based
7 therapy, housing, crisis, medical, recovery, and employment supports for youth
8 in Windham County; and

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

13 * * * Effective Date * * *

14 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

1 (Committee vote: _____)

2 _____

3 Representative _____

4 FOR THE COMMITTEE