TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No. 660 entitled "An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special Fund appropriations" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. APPROPRIATIONS; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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) $1,750,000.00 ($1,400,000.00) 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 at not less than fiscal year 2027 levels, unless and until the Special Fund does not have sufficient monies to fund this expenditure.

(3) $1,100,000.00 ($1,250,000.00) to the Department of Corrections to provide peer recovery center coaches in Vermont correctional facilities and in probation and parole offices to provide group and individual coaching and reentry support.

(4) $250,000.00 to the Department for Children and Families' Office of Economic Opportunity to support long-term programs at shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness, including harm-reduction supports, transportation to recovery meetings and appointments, and clinical nursing programs.

(5) $200,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences to provide initial entry fees and rent for individuals newly entering recovery housing.

(6) $900,000.00 ($1,200,000.00) to the Department of Health for the creation of new recovery resident beds at National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) level III or higher.

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

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

(8) $287,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety to expand the Public Safety Enhancement Team's harm reduction and strategic community intervention efforts in more Vermont communities.

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

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

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

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

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

(14) $300,000.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences (VTARR) and Recovery Partners of Vermont to establish new recovery residences in the Brattleboro, Middlebury, Addison, Randolph, Chester, and St. Albans regions.

(15) $26,697.00 to the Department of Health for distribution to Winooski Partnership for Prevention to provide funding for staff time and stipends for partners to deliver medicine safety education to elementary-aged youth during school with family engagement.

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

Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

(1)(A) ~~$1,500,000 divided equally between four opioid treatment programs~~ $1,056,000 to cover costs associated with partnering with other

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

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

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

* * *

Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 22, Sec. 14 is amended to read:

Sec. 14. APPROPRIATION; OPIOID ABATEMENT SPECIAL FUND

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

* * *

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

* * *

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. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: _____)

_____

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE