



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 546**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6914

*House of Representatives, April 12, 2023*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FUNDS IN THE OPIOID AND TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS AND FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE AS PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH A MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 4-28e of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2023*):

4 (c) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, [2023] 2024,  
5 annual disbursements from the Tobacco Settlement Fund shall be made  
6 as follows: (1) To the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund in an amount equal  
7 to [twelve million dollars; and (2)] twenty-two million seven hundred  
8 thousand dollars; (2) to the Commissioner of Mental Health and  
9 Addiction Services for distribution to the regional behavioral health  
10 action organizations, as described in section 17a-484f, in the amount  
11 received in the preceding fiscal year pursuant to the stipulated

12 judgment in State of Connecticut v. JUUL Labs, Inc. for the funding of  
13 programs to support the abatement, mitigation, cessation, reduction or  
14 prevention of the use of nicotine or nicotine-synthetic products by  
15 residents under twenty-one years of age in accordance with such  
16 judgment; and (3) the remainder to the General Fund.

17 Sec. 2. Section 17a-674c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
18 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

19 (a) There is established an Opioid Settlement Fund which shall be a  
20 separate nonlapsing fund administered by the committee.

21 (b) Any moneys intended to address opioid use, related disorders or  
22 the impact of the opioid epidemic that are received by the state from any  
23 judgment, consent decree or settlement paid by any defendant, which is  
24 finalized on or after July 1, 2021, related to the production, distribution,  
25 dispensing and other activities related to opioids shall be deposited into  
26 the fund. Moneys remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall  
27 not revert to the General Fund.

28 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (b) of this section, if  
29 the commissioner and the Attorney General certify that the purposes of  
30 such judgment, consent decree or settlement are inconsistent with the  
31 intent of the provisions of this section and sections 17a-674d to 17a-674f,  
32 inclusive, as amended by this act, the commissioner and Attorney  
33 General (1) shall report in writing to the committee such certification,  
34 including any identification by the commissioner and Attorney General  
35 of an alternate fund or account and explanation of the reasons for  
36 depositing such moneys in such alternate fund or account, and (2) may  
37 deposit such moneys into such alternate fund or account. The  
38 commissioner and Attorney General shall jointly report, in accordance  
39 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of  
40 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
41 health regarding the intended use of such moneys in such alternate fund  
42 or account prior to allocating such moneys for other purposes.

43 (d) Beginning on December 31, 2022, and annually thereafter, the

44 State Treasurer shall report the following to the committee:

45 (1) An inventory of fund investments as of the most recent fiscal year;  
46 and

47 (2) The net income earned by the fund in the most recent fiscal year.

48 (e) Any municipality that receives moneys directly from a settlement  
49 administrator pursuant to a judgment, consent decree or settlement  
50 related to opioid litigation shall submit an annual report to the  
51 committee detailing its expenditures for the preceding fiscal year on a  
52 form prescribed by the committee. Each such municipality shall submit  
53 such report to the committee on or before October 1, 2023, and annually  
54 thereafter, until the total amount of such moneys received by the  
55 municipality has been expended.

56 [(e)] (f) Moneys in the fund shall be spent only for the following  
57 substance use disorder abatement purposes, in accordance with the  
58 controlling judgment, consent decree or settlement, as confirmed by the  
59 Attorney General's review of such judgment, consent decree or  
60 settlement and upon the approval of the committee and the Secretary of  
61 the Office of Policy and Management:

62 (1) State-wide, regional or community substance use disorder needs  
63 assessments to identify structural gaps and needs to inform  
64 expenditures from the fund;

65 (2) Infrastructure required for evidence-based substance use disorder  
66 prevention, treatment, recovery or harm reduction programs, services  
67 and supports;

68 (3) Programs, services, supports and resources for evidence-based  
69 substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery or harm  
70 reduction;

71 (4) Evidence-informed substance use disorder prevention, treatment,  
72 recovery or harm reduction pilot programs or demonstration studies  
73 that are not evidence-based, but are approved by the committee as an

74 appropriate use of moneys for a limited period of time as specified by  
75 the committee, provided the committee shall assess whether the  
76 evidence supports funding such programs or studies or whether it  
77 provides a basis for funding such programs or studies with an  
78 expectation of creating an evidence base for such programs and studies;

79 (5) Evaluation of effectiveness and outcomes reporting for substance  
80 use disorder abatement infrastructure, programs, services, supports and  
81 resources for which moneys from the fund have been disbursed,  
82 including, but not limited to, impact on access to harm reduction  
83 services or treatment for substance use disorders or reduction in drug-  
84 related mortality;

85 (6) One or more publicly available data interfaces managed by the  
86 commissioner to aggregate, track and report data on (A) substance use  
87 disorders, overdoses and drug-related harms, (B) spending  
88 recommendations, plans and reports, and (C) outcomes of programs,  
89 services, supports and resources for which moneys from the fund were  
90 disbursed;

91 (7) Research on opioid abatement, including, but not limited to,  
92 development of evidence-based treatment, barriers to treatment,  
93 nonopioid treatment of chronic pain and harm reduction, supply-side  
94 enforcement;

95 (8) Documented expenses incurred in administering and staffing the  
96 fund and the committee, and expenses, including, but not limited to,  
97 legal fees, incurred by the state or any municipality in securing  
98 settlement proceeds, deposited in the fund as permitted by the  
99 controlling judgment, consent decree or settlement;

100 (9) Documented expenses associated with managing, investing and  
101 disbursing moneys in the fund; and

102 (10) Documented expenses, including legal fees, incurred by the state  
103 or any municipality in securing settlement proceeds deposited in the  
104 fund to the extent such expenses are not otherwise reimbursed pursuant

105 to a fee agreement provided for by the controlling judgment, consent  
106 decree or settlement.

107     ~~[(f)]~~ (g) (1) For purposes of this section, the fund balance shall be  
108 determined by the State Treasurer as of July first, annually.

109     (2) Except as permitted by subdivision (8) of subsection ~~[(e)]~~ (f) of this  
110 section, or unless otherwise required by court order to refund to the  
111 federal government a portion of the proceeds, moneys in the fund shall  
112 be used for prospective purposes and shall not be used to reimburse  
113 expenditures incurred prior to July 1, 2022.

114     (3) Proceeds derived from any state settlement of claims against a  
115 defendant shall be allocated and disbursed only to those municipalities  
116 that execute an agreement to participate in such settlement and adhere  
117 to the terms of such agreement, provided the allocation or disbursement  
118 of such settlement proceeds for the benefit of persons within  
119 municipalities that do not execute an agreement to participate in such  
120 settlement or do not adhere to the terms of such agreement shall not be  
121 precluded or limited.

122     (4) Governmental and nonprofit nongovernmental entities shall be  
123 eligible to receive moneys from the fund for programs, services,  
124 supports and resources for prevention, treatment, recovery and harm  
125 reduction.

126     (5) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (6) of this subsection, fund  
127 disbursements shall be made by the commissioner upon approval of the  
128 committee. The commissioner shall not make or refuse to make any  
129 disbursement allowable under this subsection without the approval of  
130 the committee. The commissioner shall adhere to the committee's  
131 decisions regarding disbursement of moneys from the fund, provided  
132 such disbursement is a permissible expenditure under this section. The  
133 commissioner's role in the distribution of moneys after the distribution  
134 has been approved by the committee and after the review and approval  
135 required under subsection ~~[(e)]~~ (f) of this section shall be ministerial and  
136 shall not be discretionary.

137 (6) Moneys expended from the fund for the purposes set forth in  
138 subsection (d) of this section shall be supplemental to, and shall not  
139 supplant or take the place of, any other funds, including, but not limited  
140 to, insurance benefits or local, state or federal funding, that would  
141 otherwise have been expended for such purposes. The commissioner  
142 shall not disburse moneys from the fund during any fiscal year unless  
143 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management transmits to the  
144 committee a letter verifying that funds appropriated and allocated in  
145 such fiscal year's budget for substance use disorder abatement  
146 infrastructure, programs, services, supports and resources for  
147 prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction are in an amount  
148 not less than the sum of the funds for such purposes appropriated and  
149 allocated in the previous fiscal year's budget. As used in this  
150 subdivision, "supplemental" means additional funding, consistent with  
151 the provisions of this section, for substance use disorder abatement  
152 infrastructure or a substance use disorder abatement program, service,  
153 support or resource to ensure that funding in the current fiscal year  
154 exceeds the sum of federal, state, and local funds allocated in the  
155 previous fiscal year for such substance use disorder abatement  
156 infrastructure, program, service, support or resource.

157 Sec. 3. Subsection (j) of section 17a-674d of the general statutes is  
158 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
159 *2023*):

160 (j) The department shall create and maintain an Internet web site  
161 where the committee shall publish (1) meeting minutes, including, but  
162 not limited to, records of all votes to approve expenditures of moneys  
163 from the fund, (2) recipient agreements and reports required under  
164 subsection (h) of this section, (3) policies and procedures approved by  
165 the committee, [and] (4) reports received from municipalities pursuant  
166 to subsection (e) of section 17a-674c, as amended by this act, and (5) the  
167 committee's annual reports.

168 Sec. 4. Section 4-28f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
169 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

170 (a) There is created a Tobacco and Health Trust Fund which shall be  
171 a separate nonlapsing fund. The purpose of the trust fund shall be to  
172 create a continuing significant source of funds to [(1)] support and  
173 encourage development of programs to reduce tobacco [abuse] and  
174 nicotine use through prevention, education and cessation programs [,  
175 (2) support and encourage development of programs to reduce  
176 substance abuse, and (3) develop and implement programs to meet the  
177 unmet physical and mental health needs in the state] that use evidence-  
178 based best practices regarding (1) state and community interventions,  
179 (2) communication methods to disseminate health information to a wide  
180 audience, (3) cessation interventions, (4) surveillance and evaluation,  
181 and (5) infrastructure, administration and management. The trust fund  
182 shall be used to support the reduction in use of all tobacco and nicotine  
183 products, including, but not limited to, combustible, noncombustible,  
184 electronic and synthetic tobacco and nicotine products.

185 (b) The trust fund may accept transfers from the Tobacco Settlement  
186 Fund and may apply for and accept gifts, grants, [or] donations,  
187 assignments or transfers from public or private sources to enable the  
188 trust fund to carry out its objectives.

189 (c) The trust fund shall be administered by a board of trustees, except  
190 that the board shall suspend its operations from July 1, 2003, to June 30,  
191 2005, inclusive. The board shall consist of seventeen trustees. The  
192 appointment of the initial trustees shall be as follows: (1) The Governor  
193 shall appoint four trustees, one of whom shall serve for a term of one  
194 year from July 1, 2000, two of whom shall serve for a term of two years  
195 from July 1, 2000, and one of whom shall serve for a term of three years  
196 from July 1, 2000; (2) the speaker of the House of Representatives and  
197 the president pro tempore of the Senate each shall appoint two trustees,  
198 one of whom shall serve for a term of two years from July 1, 2000, and  
199 one of whom shall serve for a term of three years from July 1, 2000; (3)  
200 the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the majority  
201 leader of the Senate each shall appoint two trustees, one of whom shall  
202 serve for a term of one year from July 1, 2000, and one of whom shall  
203 serve for a term of three years from July 1, 2000; (4) the minority leader

204 of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the Senate  
205 each shall appoint two trustees, one of whom shall serve for a term of  
206 one year from July 1, 2000, and one of whom shall serve for a term of  
207 two years from July 1, 2000; and (5) the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
208 and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall serve as an ex-officio  
209 voting member. Following the expiration of such initial terms,  
210 subsequent trustees shall serve for a term of three years. The trustees  
211 shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed or  
212 designated. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term  
213 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the  
214 balance of the unexpired term. The period of suspension of the board's  
215 operations from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2005, inclusive, shall not be  
216 included in the term of any trustee serving on July 1, 2003. The trustees  
217 shall serve without compensation except for reimbursement for  
218 necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties. The board of  
219 trustees shall establish rules of procedure for the conduct of its business  
220 which shall include, but not be limited to, criteria, processes and  
221 procedures to be used in selecting programs to receive money from the  
222 trust fund. The trust fund shall be within the Office of Policy and  
223 Management for administrative purposes only. The board of trustees  
224 shall, not later than January first of each year, submit a report of its  
225 activities and accomplishments to the joint standing committees of the  
226 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
227 health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in  
228 accordance with section 11-4a.

229 (d) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year  
230 thereafter, the board of trustees, by majority vote, shall recommend  
231 authorization of disbursement from the trust fund of the amount  
232 deposited in the trust fund for the fiscal year pursuant to subsection (c)  
233 of section 4-28e, as amended by this act, for the purposes described in  
234 subsection (a) of this section and section 19a-6d. The board's  
235 recommendations shall give [(i)] (A) priority to [programs that address  
236 tobacco and substance abuse and serve minors, pregnant women and  
237 parents of young children] comprehensive tobacco and nicotine control  
238 programs for (i) prevention of initial tobacco and nicotine product use



239 among youth and young adults, (ii) smoking cessation directed at adults  
240 and youth, (iii) elimination of exposure to secondhand smoke and  
241 aerosol, and (iv) identification and elimination of tobacco and nicotine-  
242 related disparities, and [(ii)] (B) consideration to the availability of  
243 private matching funds. Recommended disbursements from the trust  
244 fund shall be in addition to any resources that would otherwise be  
245 appropriated by the state for such purposes and programs.

246 (2) The board of trustees shall submit such recommendations for the  
247 authorization of disbursement from the trust fund to the joint standing  
248 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
249 relating to public health and appropriations and the budgets of state  
250 agencies. Not later than thirty days after receipt of such  
251 recommendations, said committees shall advise the board of their  
252 approval, modifications, if any, or rejection of the board's  
253 recommendations. If said joint standing committees do not concur, the  
254 speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of  
255 the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the  
256 majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of  
257 Representatives and the minority leader of the Senate each shall appoint  
258 one member from each of said joint standing committees to serve as a  
259 committee on conference. The committee on conference shall submit its  
260 report to both committees, which shall vote to accept or reject the report.  
261 The report of the committee on conference may not be amended. If a  
262 joint standing committee rejects the report of the committee on  
263 conference, the board's recommendations shall be deemed approved. If  
264 the joint standing committees accept the report of the committee on  
265 conference, the joint standing committee having cognizance of matters  
266 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies shall advise  
267 the board of said joint standing committees' approval or modifications,  
268 if any, of the board's recommended disbursement. If said joint standing  
269 committees do not act within thirty days after receipt of the board's  
270 recommendations for the authorization of disbursement, such  
271 recommendations shall be deemed approved. Disbursement from the  
272 trust fund shall be in accordance with the board's recommendations as  
273 approved or modified by said joint standing committees.

274 (3) After such recommendations for the authorization of  
 275 disbursement have been approved or modified pursuant to subdivision  
 276 (2) of this subsection, any modification in the amount of an authorized  
 277 disbursement in excess of fifty thousand dollars or ten per cent of the  
 278 authorized amount, whichever is less, shall be submitted to said joint  
 279 standing committees and approved, modified or rejected in accordance  
 280 with the procedure set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection.  
 281 Notification of all disbursements from the trust fund made pursuant to  
 282 this section shall be sent to the joint standing committees of the General  
 283 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and  
 284 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, through the Office of  
 285 Fiscal Analysis.

286 (4) The board of trustees shall submit a biennial report to the joint  
 287 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 288 matters relating to public health and appropriations and the budgets of  
 289 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such  
 290 report shall include, but need not be limited to, an accounting of the  
 291 unexpended amount in the trust fund, if any, all disbursements and  
 292 other expenditures from the trust fund and an evaluation of the  
 293 performance and impact of each program receiving funds from the trust  
 294 fund. Such report shall also include the measurable outcome and  
 295 evaluation criteria and application process used to select programs to  
 296 receive such funds.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	4-28e(c)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	17a-674c
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	17a-674d(j)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	4-28f

**PH** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	Other Funds - See Below	See Below	See Below
Tobacco Health Trust Fund	Tobacco Health Trust Fund - Revenue Gain	10.7 million	10.7 million
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Loss	10.7 million	10.7 million

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill shifts \$10.7 million annually from the General Fund to the Tobacco Health and Trust Fund (THTF). Additionally, the bill makes changes regarding governance and spending priorities of the THTF that have no fiscal impact.

The bill directs CT proceeds from the recent, multi-state JUUL settlement (\$16.2 million total over six to ten years) to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

**The Out Years**

The revenue shift from the General Fund to the THTF would remain constant into the future.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6914*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FUNDS IN THE OPIOID AND TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS AND FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE AS PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH A MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEM AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes changes affecting tobacco and opioid settlement funds, including the following:

1. starting FY 24, increasing, from \$12 million to \$22.7 million, the annual disbursement from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund (§ 1);
2. starting FY 24, requiring the amount of JUUL settlement funds (see BACKGROUND) the state received in the prior fiscal year to be disbursed from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to fund specified programs targeting residents under age 21 (§ 1); and
3. starting by October 1, 2023, requiring municipalities that receive opioid settlement funds directly from a settlement administrator to annually report to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee until they spend all the funds (§§ 2 & 3).

The bill also makes various other changes affecting the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund. It updates the statutory purposes for fund disbursements to include the reduction of tobacco and nicotine use in all forms, including e-cigarettes and vapor products, rather than just tobacco as under current law. Among other things, it requires that funding be directed to programs that use evidence-based best practices

for various objectives, such as state and community interventions and surveillance and evaluation.

It also requires the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund board, in recommending annual fund disbursements, to give priority to comprehensive tobacco and nicotine control programs for specified purposes, such as (1) preventing initial use of these products by youths and young adults and (2) identifying and eliminating tobacco and nicotine-related disparities.

Among other changes affecting the board, the bill specifies that board vacancies occurring other than by a term's expiration must be filled in the same way as the original appointment for the remainder of the term.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

## **§ 1 — TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND DISBURSEMENTS**

Starting FY 24, the bill modifies annual disbursements from the Tobacco Settlement Fund by doing the following:

1. increasing, from \$12 million to \$22.7 million, the disbursement to the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund and
2. requiring the amount of JUUL settlement funds the state received the prior fiscal year to be disbursed to DMHAS, to distribute to the state's five regional behavioral health action organizations (RBHAOs, see BACKGROUND) for programs that support the abatement, mitigation, cessation, reduction, or prevention of nicotine or nicotine-synthetic product use by residents under age 21.

## **§§ 2 & 3 — OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

The bill requires municipalities that receive opioid settlement funds directly from a settlement administrator to annually report to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (see BACKGROUND) on their expenditures for the prior year on a form the committee prescribes. The committee must publish the reports on its website.

Under the bill, municipalities must report by October 1, 2023, and annually afterwards, until they spend all their settlement funds.

#### **§ 4 — TOBACCO AND HEALTH TRUST FUND**

##### ***Fund Purposes***

The bill updates the statutory purposes for fund disbursements to include the reduction of tobacco and nicotine use in all forms, including combustible, non-combustible, electronic, and synthetic products.

It requires that funding be directed to support and encourage tobacco and nicotine use prevention, education, and cessation programs that use evidence-based best practices for the following:

1. state and community interventions;
2. communication methods to disseminate health information to a wide audience;
3. cessation interventions;
4. surveillance and evaluation; and
5. infrastructure, administration, and management.

Under current law, funding must be directed to (1) support and encourage programs to reduce tobacco abuse through prevention, education, and cessation; (2) support and encourage program development for substance abuse reduction; and (3) develop and implement programs to meet the state's unmet physical and mental health needs.

##### ***Annual Disbursements***

Under current law, the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund board, in recommending annual fund disbursements, must give priority to tobacco and substance abuse programs that serve minors, pregnant women, and parents of young children.

The bill instead requires the board to give priority to comprehensive tobacco and nicotine control programs for the following purposes:

1. preventing initial use of these products by youth and young adults,
2. smoking cessation directed at adults and youth,
3. eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol, and
4. identifying and eliminating tobacco and nicotine-related disparities.

As under current law, the board must also consider the availability of private-matching funds.

### ***Board Vacancies***

By law, board members serve three-year terms. The bill specifically requires board members to continue to serve until their successors are appointed or designated. Under the bill, if a vacancy occurs other than by a term's expiration, it must be filled in the same way as the original appointment for the remainder of the term.

### ***Biennial Report***

Existing law requires the board to submit a biennial report to the Appropriations and Public Health committees on the trust fund, including (1) all fund disbursements and expenditures, (2) an evaluation of the performance and impact of each program that receives funding, and (3) an accounting of any unexpended funds.

Current law also requires the report to include the criteria and application process used to select fund recipients. The bill specifies that this must include measurable outcome and evaluation criteria.

### ***Funding Sources***

The bill specifically allows the trust fund to apply for and accept assignments or transfers from public or private funding sources to carry out its purposes. The law already allows the fund to apply for and accept gifts, grants, or donations from these funding sources.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***JUUL Settlement Funds***

Connecticut is part of a recently approved \$438.5 million multistate settlement with JUUL Labs, a manufacturer of e-cigarette and vapor products. Thirty-four states and U.S. territories have signed on to the agreement. The state is expected to receive at least \$16.2 million over a six- to 10-year period and must use the funds for cessation, prevention, and mitigation.

**Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee**

By law, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee ensures (1) Opioid Settlement Fund moneys are allocated and spent on specified substance use disorder abatement purposes and (2) robust public involvement, accountability, and transparency in allocating and accounting for the fund’s moneys.

The committee consists of 31 state and local government officials and six public members and is chaired by the DMHAS commissioner and a municipal representative. The committee must meet quarterly and annually report to the Appropriations and Public Health committees on the fund’s activities.

**Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations**

By law, the state’s five contracted RBHAOs are responsible for (1) behavioral health planning, education, and promotion; (2) coordinating behavioral health issues prevention; and (3) advocacy for behavioral health needs and services within their respective mental health regions.

**Related Bill**

sHB 6730, favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, contains identical provisions on the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund’s board and statutory purpose.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37    Nay 0    (03/27/2023)