

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which  
3 was referred Senate Bill No. 39 entitled “An act relating to compensation and  
4 benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly” respectfully reports  
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the  
6 Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 4, 32 V.S.A. § 1052, in subdivision (a)(3), by striking out “is  
8 entitled to” and inserting in lieu thereof “may claim”

9 Second: In Sec. 4, 32 V.S.A. § 1052, by striking out subsection (b) in its  
10 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

11 (b) Expenses. During any session of the General Assembly, each member  
12 is entitled to receive an allowance for or reimbursement of expenses as  
13 ~~follows:~~ set forth in this subsection.

14 (1) Mileage reimbursement. ~~Reimbursement~~ Each member shall receive  
15 reimbursement in an amount equal to the actual mileage traveled for each day  
16 of session in which the member travels between Montpelier and the member’s  
17 home or from Montpelier or from the member’s home to another site on  
18 officially sanctioned legislative business. Reimbursement of actual mileage  
19 traveled under this subdivision shall be at the rate per mile determined by the  
20 federal Office of Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal  
21 Register for the year of the session.

1           (2) ~~Meals and lodging allowance.~~ Each member shall receive either a  
2           meals allowance or reimbursement of actual meals expenses. A member shall  
3           be presumed to have elected to receive the meals allowance unless the member  
4           informs the Office of Legislative Operations prior to the convening of the  
5           regular or adjourned session that the member wishes to receive reimbursement  
6           of actual meals expenses. A member’s election to receive reimbursement of  
7           actual meals expenses shall remain in effect through the remainder of that  
8           session unless the member notifies the Office, in writing, that the member  
9           needs to change to the meals allowance due to a change in circumstances or for  
10           another compelling reason.

11           (A) Meals allowance. ~~An~~ A member who elects to receive a meals  
12           allowance shall receive an amount equal to the daily amount for meals and  
13           lodging determined for Montpelier, Vermont, by the federal Office of  
14           Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year of  
15           the session; for each day the House in which the member serves shall sit.

16           (B) Meals reimbursement. A member who elects to receive  
17           reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual  
18           amounts expended by the member for meals for each day that the House in  
19           which the member serves shall sit, as well as meals for the night preceding the  
20           first legislative day of each week during the legislative session; provided,  
21           however, that the total amount of the weekly reimbursement available pursuant

1 to this subdivision shall not exceed the amount the member would have  
2 received for the same week if the member had elected the meals allowance  
3 pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2). The member shall provide  
4 meal receipts or otherwise substantiate the amounts expended to the Office of  
5 Legislative Operations in the form and manner prescribed by the Director of  
6 Legislative Operations.

7 (3) Lodging. Each member shall receive either a lodging allowance or  
8 reimbursement of actual lodging expenses. A member shall be presumed to  
9 have elected to receive the lodging allowance unless the member informs the  
10 Office of Legislative Operations prior to the convening of the regular or  
11 adjourned session that the member wishes to receive reimbursement of actual  
12 lodging expenses. A member's election to receive reimbursement of actual  
13 lodging expenses shall remain in effect through the remainder of that session  
14 unless the member notifies the Office, in writing, that the member needs to  
15 change to the lodging allowance due to a change in circumstances or for  
16 another compelling reason.

17 (A) Lodging allowance. A member who elects to receive a lodging  
18 allowance shall receive an amount equal to the daily amount for lodging  
19 determined for Montpelier, Vermont, by the federal Office of Government-  
20 wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year of the session  
21 for each day the House in which the member serves shall sit.

1           (B) Lodging reimbursement. A member who elects to receive  
2           reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual  
3           amounts expended by the member for lodging for each day that the House in  
4           which the member serves shall sit, as well as lodging for the night preceding  
5           the first legislative day of each week during the legislative session; provided,  
6           however, that the total amount of the weekly reimbursement available pursuant  
7           to this subdivision for each week shall not exceed the amount the member  
8           would have received for the same week if the member had elected the lodging  
9           allowance pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3). The member  
10           shall provide lodging receipts or otherwise substantiate the amounts expended  
11           to the Office of Legislative Operations in the form and manner prescribed by  
12           the Director of Legislative Operations.

13           (4) Absences. If a member is absent for reasons other than sickness or  
14           legislative business for one or more entire days while the house in which the  
15           member sits is in session, the member shall notify the Office of Legislative  
16           Operations of that absence, and ~~expenses received shall not include the amount~~  
17           ~~that the legislator specifies was not incurred~~ the member shall not receive or be  
18           reimbursed for mileage, meals, or lodging expenses incurred during the period  
19           of that absence.

20           Third: In Sec. 6, Legislative Service Working Group, in subdivision (c)(1),  
21           by adding a new subdivision to be subdivision (C) to read as follows:

1           (C) the impact of making members eligible for the State employees’  
2           health plan as set forth in Sec. 1 of this act on members of different income  
3           levels;

4           and by relettering the remaining subdivisions in subdivision (c)(1) to be  
5           alphabetically correct

6           Fourth: In Sec. 6, Legislative Service Working Group, in subsection (g), by  
7           striking out “eight” preceding “meetings” in the first sentence and inserting in  
8           lieu thereof “six”

9           Fifth: By striking out Sec. 7, appropriation, and its reader assistance  
10          heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11          Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

12          Sixth: In Sec. 8, effective dates, by striking out subsections (b) and (c) in  
13          their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14          (b) Secs. 3(b)(3) (expenses for Speaker and President Pro Tempore) and  
15          4(b)–(d) (legislator expenses) shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

16          and by relettering the remaining subsections to be alphabetically correct

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18          (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE