

February 15, 2022

To: Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations

From: Hannah Gottschalk, Legislative Intern for Rep. Emma Mulvaney-Stanak

Regarding: Side-by-Side Comparison of S.39 and Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak's Legislative Compensation Bill

To accompany Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak's testimony on S.39, this document provides a side-by-side comparison of S.39 and Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak's legislative compensation bill which will be introduced in the House today or tomorrow. Below is a bulleted summary of both bills as well as a table side-by-side comparison of the components in both bills.

S.39 (2023) - An act relating to compensation and benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly. This bill is sponsored by Sen. Hardy and Sen. Clarkson and would:

- Make General Assembly members eligible for both the childcare and healthcare FSA.
- Give General Assembly members adjournment compensation equal to 1/5th of their weekly compensation for each week after adjournment.
- Give members who are on special committees during adjournment compensation for their time spent preparing for meetings for the special committees with an hourly rate equal to 2.5% of their weekly compensation.
- Give members the option between having an allowance (taxable) or a reimbursement (non-taxable) for meals and lodging.
- Give members a reimbursement for the actual amount spent on childcare, dependent care and/or elder care up to the amount allowed for in the childcare FSA.
- Create the Legislative Service Working Group to consider and make recommendations on issues related to legislator compensation. This work would be conducted before January 15th, 2024.

Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak's Bill - This bill would:

- Make General Assembly members eligible for both the childcare and healthcare FSA.
- Replace the per diem compensation system currently in place with salary compensation for members of the General Assembly.
  - Legislators other than the Speaker of the House and the Pro Tem of the Senate would receive a salary equal to half of the Vermont annual average wage.
  - The Speaker of the House and the Pro Tem of the Senate would receive a salary equal to 75% of the Vermont annual average wage.
- Provide per diem compensation equal to 1/10th of the bi-weekly compensation for new members on orientation and other meetings prior to the beginning of the biennium.
- Provide reimbursement to members for mileage, meals, housing and childcare/dependent care during the session and for off session special committee assignments, special sessions, or legislative all-member briefings.

- Reimburse members for the actual costs spent of child and dependent care using the following metrics:
  - For members with children age 0-5 and 5-13, the maximum reimbursement amount is equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the statewide weekly average rate for childcare as determined by the Child Development Division's child care market study.
  - For members with dependents older than 13 who require dependent care the maximum is equal to the daily Medicaid reimbursement rate.
- Allow for reimbursement of the actual costs incurred for overnight parking by those who have physical limitations that necessitate overnight parking.

Bill link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HwkAU4FfsggfXdzjtycujrj5AvJZY0jO/view>

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak's Bill</b>	<b>S.39 - sponsored by Sen. Hardy and Sen. Clarkson</b>
Flexible Spending Accounts	Members eligible for childcare and healthcare FSA	Members eligible for childcare and healthcare FSA
Session Compensation	-Members will receive a salary equal to 50% of the Vermont annual average wage -The Senate Pro Tem and Speaker of the House will receive a salary equal to 75% of the Vermont annual average wage	Members will receive current legislative compensation during session
Adjournment Compensation	Yearly Salary	Legislators would receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of weekly compensation each week of adjournment
Special/Joint Committee Adjournment Compensation	Yearly Salary	Legislators would receive an hourly rate of 2.5% of weekly compensation for preparation for meetings of special/joint committees during adjournment
New Legislator Compensation	Non-incumbent members shall receive per-diem compensation for orientation equal to 1/10th of the bi-weekly compensation	N/A
Child and dependent care	All members shall receive a	All member shall receive a

	reimbursement for actual costs spent on child and dependent care -Upper limits change by age of child and are equal to 1/3 of the statewide weekly average for childcare (0-5 and 5-13) and the daily Medicaid reimbursement rate for dependent care (13+)	reimbursement for actual costs spent on child, dependent and elder care -Upper limits set by the maximum amount set by the child care FSA
Parking	Reimbursement for parking for those whose physical limitations necessitate overnight parking	N/A
Meals and Lodging	Current reimbursement system	Allows members to choose an allowance or a reimbursement for meals and lodging
Legislative Service Working Group	N/A	Creates a group to consider and make recommendations on issues related to legislator compensation