

Vermont Legislative Council

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the General Assembly
From: Luke Martland, Director and Chief Counsel; Mike Ferrant, Deputy Director of Operations
Date: November 16, 2018
Subject: Salary and expense allowances

This memo provides information concerning your salary, meals and lodging allowances, mileage reimbursement amounts. There is also important information regarding taxable expenses and a change to your last paycheck of the session that will be delivered in the near future.

I. Salary

For each week of the 2019 legislative session, you will receive a salary of \$733.04. Payment of this salary may also be made as deferred compensation under the State's Deferred Compensation Plan. Forms for deferred compensation are available at <http://humanresources.vermont.gov/forms> or at the Office of Legislative Council.

II. Meals and lodging allowances and mileage reimbursement

Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1052(b), all Representatives and Senators are entitled to an allowance for meals and, if they rent a room, for lodging. In addition, members who drive to the State House are entitled to reimbursement for mileage. The amounts are established by the federal government's General Service Administration (GSA) and are:

- Meals: \$66.00 per day
- Lodging: \$126.00 per night
- Mileage: \$0.545 per mile (the GSA reimbursement rates for mileage may change in January; we will notify you of any such change as soon as possible)

If you rent a room in Montpelier during the session: You are entitled to the lodging and meals allowances for each day of the session. These amounts are not reimbursement for your actual expenses, but are an allowance and are paid whether or not you actually spend more or less for meals or lodging. If you drive, you are also entitled to reimbursement for the mileage of one round-trip per week between your home and the State House.

If you do not rent a room in Montpelier: You are entitled to the meals allowance for each day of session. You are not entitled to the lodging allowance. If you drive to and from the State House, you are entitled to mileage reimbursement for each day that you drive.

Please be advised that under 32 V.S.A. § 1052(b)(3), “[i]f a member is absent for reasons other than sickness or legislative business for one or more entire days ... the member shall notify the Legislative Council staff of that absence, and expenses received shall not include the amount which the legislator specifies was not incurred during the period of that absence.” If this situation applies to you during the session, please see Mike Ferrant and he can show you how to fill out the appropriate forms.