

1 H.474

2 Introduced by Representative Burditt of West Rutland

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: General Assembly; legislative compensation; limit on number of
6 weeks

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide
8 legislative compensation for a maximum of 18 weeks in each year of a
9 biennium.

10 An act relating to a limit on the number of weeks of legislative
11 compensation

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 1051 is amended to read:

14 § 1051. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
15 OF THE SENATE; COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE
16 REIMBURSEMENT

17 (a) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
18 shall be entitled to receive annual compensation of \$10,080.00 for the 2005
19 Biennial Session and thereafter to be paid in biweekly payments; provided that,
20 beginning on January 1, 2007, the annual compensation shall be adjusted

1 annually thereafter by the cost of living adjustment negotiated for State
2 employees under the most recent collective bargaining agreement. In addition
3 to the annual compensation, the Speaker and President Pro Tempore shall be
4 entitled to receive:

5 (1) \$652.00 a week for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter, to be
6 paid in biweekly payments ~~during the regular and adjourned sessions of the~~
7 ~~General Assembly~~ for a maximum of 18 weeks in each year of a biennium;
8 provided that, beginning on January 1, 2007, the weekly compensation shall be
9 adjusted annually thereafter by the cost of living adjustment negotiated for
10 State employees under the most recent collective bargaining agreement;

11 (2) an amount equal to one-fifth of the annually adjusted weekly
12 compensation set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, rounded up to the
13 nearest dollar, per day during a special session of the General Assembly; and

14 (3) mileage, meals, and lodging expenses as provided to members of the
15 General Assembly under subsection 1052(b) of this title during the biennial,
16 adjourned, and special sessions of the General Assembly and in addition such
17 other actual and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in duties imposed
18 by law.

19 * * *

1 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 1052 is amended to read:

2 § 1052. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; COMPENSATION
3 AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

4 (a)(1) Each member of the General Assembly, other than the Speaker of the
5 House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, is entitled to a weekly
6 salary of \$589.00 for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter, for a maximum
7 of 18 weeks in each year of a biennium; provided that, beginning on January 1,
8 2007, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted annually thereafter by the
9 cost of living adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent
10 collective bargaining agreement. The salary of members shall be paid in
11 biweekly installments.

12 (2) During a special session, a member is entitled to an amount equal to
13 one-fifth of the annually adjusted weekly compensation set forth in
14 subdivision (1) of this subsection, rounded up to the nearest dollar, for each
15 day of a special session on which the House of which he or she is a member
16 shall sit.

17 (b) During any session of the General Assembly, each member is entitled
18 to receive expenses as follows:

19 (1) Mileage reimbursement. An allowance equal to the cost of one
20 round-trip each day between Montpelier and the member's home for each day
21 of session in which the member did not rent lodging in Montpelier or the

1 vicinity. If a member rents lodging in Montpelier or the vicinity for an entire
2 week of session, the member is entitled to an allowance for the cost of
3 one round-trip for that week between Montpelier and the member's home.
4 The allowance shall be at the rate per mile determined by the federal Office of
5 Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year of
6 the session.

7 (2) Meals and lodging allowance. An allowance in an amount equal to
8 the daily amount for meals and lodging determined for Montpelier, Vermont,
9 by the federal Office of Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal
10 Register for the year of the session, for each day the House in which the
11 member serves shall sit.

12 (3) Absences. If a member is absent for reasons other than sickness or
13 legislative business for one or more entire days while the House in which the
14 member sits is in session, the member shall notify the Legislative Council staff
15 of that absence, and expenses received shall not include the amount ~~which~~ that
16 the legislator specifies was not incurred during the period of that absence.

17 (4) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly that only a member
18 who is away from home and remains in Montpelier or the vicinity on the night
19 preceding or following the day in which that member's chamber met shall
20 receive reimbursement for expenses as provided in subdivision (1) of this
21 subsection.

1 (c) For attending a meeting of the Joint Fiscal Committee when a member
2 is not receiving compensation as a member of the General Assembly, a
3 member of the Joint Fiscal Committee shall be entitled to the same per diem
4 compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members
5 of the General Assembly for attendance at sessions of the General Assembly.

6 (d) If a member of the General Assembly dies while the General Assembly
7 is in session, the estate of the deceased member shall be entitled to receive
8 compensation for the entire pay period in which the death occurred.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.