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H.678

Introduced by Representatives Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Rogers of Waterville, Burke of Brattleboro, Chase of Colchester, Christie of Hartford, Colburn of Burlington, Donnally of Hyde Park, Goldman of Rockingham, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Leffler of Enosburgh, Nicoll of Ludlow, Notte of Rutland City, Seymour of Sutton, Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of Winooski, Surprenant of Barnard, Vyhovsky of Essex, White of Hartford, and Whitman of Bennington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Legislature; legislator compensation; legislator benefits; health insurance

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide compensation to members of the General Assembly during adjournment and to permit legislators to participate in the State employee health insurance plan.

An act relating to legislator compensation and benefits

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

2 \* \* \* Adjournment Compensation \* \* \*

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

4 § 1052. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; COMPENSATION  
5 AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

6 (a)(1) Session compensation. Each member of the General Assembly,  
7 other than the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the  
8 Senate, is entitled to a weekly salary of \$589.00 for the 2005 Biennial Session  
9 and thereafter, provided that, beginning on January 1, 2007, the weekly  
10 compensation shall be adjusted annually thereafter by the cost of living  
11 adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent collective  
12 bargaining agreement, except that, beginning on July 1, 2021 and annually  
13 thereafter on January 1, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted consistent  
14 with the compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers. The  
15 salary of members shall be paid in biweekly installments.

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

1                   (3) Adjournment compensation. During adjournment of the General  
 2                   Assembly, a member is entitled to an amount equal to one-fifth of the annually  
 3                   adjusted weekly compensation set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
 4                   rounded up to the nearest dollar, for each week of the adjournment of the  
 5                   General Assembly.

6   \* \* \*

7   \* \* \* Legislators; Health Insurance \* \* \*

8                   Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 631 is amended to read:

9                   § 631. GROUP INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; SALARY  
 10                   DEDUCTIONS FOR INSURANCE, SAVINGS PLANS, AND  
 11                   CREDIT UNIONS

12                   (a)(1) The Secretary of Administration may contract on behalf of the State  
 13                   with any insurance company or nonprofit association doing business in this  
 14                   State to secure the benefits of franchise or group insurance. Beginning July 1,  
 15                   1978, the terms of coverage under the policy shall be determined under  
 16                   section 904 of this title, but it may include:

17   \* \* \*

18                   (2)(A)(i) As used in this section, the term “employees” includes any  
 19                   class or classes of elected or appointed officials, State’s Attorneys, sheriffs,  
 20                   employees of State’s Attorneys’ offices whose compensation is administered  
 21                   through the State of Vermont payroll system, except contractual and temporary

1 employees, and deputy sheriffs paid by the State of Vermont pursuant to  
2 24 V.S.A. § 290(b). The term “employees” shall not include ~~members of the~~  
3 ~~General Assembly as such~~, any person rendering service on a retainer or fee  
4 basis, members of boards or commissions, or persons ~~other than employees of~~  
5 ~~the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Film Corporation, the Vermont~~  
6 ~~State Employees’ Credit Union, Vermont State Employees’ Association, and~~  
7 ~~the Vermont Council on the Arts~~, whose compensation for service is not paid  
8 from the State Treasury, or any elected or appointed official ~~unless the~~ except  
9 as specifically provided pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i). The term  
10 “employees” shall include employees of the Vermont Historical Society, the  
11 Vermont Film Corporation, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the  
12 Vermont State Employees’ Association, the Vermont Council on the Arts, and  
13 any elected or appointed official who is actively engaged in and devoting  
14 substantially full-time to the conduct of the business of his or her the official’s  
15 public office. The term “employees” also includes members of the General  
16 Assembly as provided pursuant to subdivision (iv) of this subdivision  
17 (a)(2)(A).

18 \* \* \*

19 (iv) For purposes of group hospital-surgical-medical expense  
20 insurance only, the term “employees” includes members of the General  
21 Assembly.

1 (B)(i) The premiums for extending insurance coverage to employees  
2 shall be paid in full by the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Film  
3 Corporation, the Vermont State Employees' Association, the Vermont State  
4 Employees' Credit Union, the Vermont Council on the Arts, or their respective  
5 retirees. Nothing herein creates a legal obligation on the part of the State of  
6 Vermont to pay any portion of the premiums required to extend insurance  
7 coverage to this group of employees.

8 (ii) The premiums for extending insurance coverage to members  
9 of the General Assembly shall be paid in full by the General Assembly.

10 \* \* \*

11 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

12 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.