

1 S.39

2 An act relating to compensation and benefits for members of the Vermont
3 General Assembly

4 The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill as follows:

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

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

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

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

20 (2) Meals ~~and lodging allowance.~~ Each member shall receive either a
21 meals allowance or reimbursement of actual meals expenses. A member shall

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

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

14 (B) Meals reimbursement. A member who elects to receive
15 reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual
16 amounts expended by the member for meals for each day that the House in
17 which the member serves shall sit, as well as meals for the night preceding the
18 first legislative day of each week during the legislative session; provided,
19 however, that the total amount of the weekly reimbursement available pursuant
20 to this subdivision shall not exceed the amount the member would have
21 received for the same week if the member had elected the meals allowance

1 pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2). The member shall provide
2 meal receipts or otherwise substantiate the amounts expended to the Office of
3 Legislative Operations in the form and manner prescribed by the Director of
4 Legislative Operations.

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

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

20 (B) Lodging reimbursement. A member who elects to receive
21 reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual

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

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

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

20 (C) the impact of making members eligible for the State employees'
21 health plan as set forth in Sec. 1 of this act on members of different income

1 levels;

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

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

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

9 Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

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

12 (b) Secs. 3(b)(3) (expenses for Speaker and President Pro Tempore) and
13 4(b)–(d) (legislator expenses) shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

14 and by relettering the remaining subsections to be alphabetically correct

15 Seventh: In Sec. 6, Legislative Service Working Group, in subdivision
16 (c)(1), by adding a new subdivision to be subdivision (E) to read as follows:

17 (E) options for establishing or engaging an independent entity to
18 make adjustments to legislative compensation and benefits;

19 and by relettering the remaining subdivisions to be alphabetically correct

20 Eighth: In Sec. 6, Legislative Service Working Group, in subdivision
21 (c)(1), by deleting the word “and” following the semicolon at the end of newly

1 relettered subdivision (G), by adding the word “and” following the semicolon
2 at the end of newly relettered subdivision (H), and by adding a new
3 subdivision (I) to read as follows:

4 (I) how the salaries, benefits, and compensation structure in the
5 Vermont General Assembly compare to the mean and median compensation
6 and benefits of Vermont residents;

7 Ninth: In Sec. 6, Legislative Service Working Group, in subsection (e), by
8 striking out the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
9 new second sentence to read: “Drafts of the Working Group’s report that are in
10 progress but have not yet been shared with the Working Group shall be
11 confidential.”