

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which  
3 was referred Senate Bill No. 39 entitled “An act relating to compensation and  
4 benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly” respectfully reports  
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the  
6 Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

18           (B) Meals reimbursement. A member who elects to receive  
19 reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual  
20 amounts expended by the member for meals for each day that the House in  
21 which the member serves shall sit, as well as meals for the night preceding the

1 first legislative day of each week during the legislative session. ~~The;~~  
2 **provided, however, that the total** amount of the ~~daily~~ **weekly** reimbursement  
3 available pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed the ~~daily amount for~~  
4 ~~meals determined for Montpelier, Vermont, by the federal Office of~~  
5 ~~Government wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year of~~  
6 ~~the session~~ **amount the member would have received for the same week if**  
7 **the member had elected the meals allowance pursuant to subdivision (A)**  
8 **of this subdivision (2).** The member shall provide meal receipts or otherwise  
9 substantiate the amounts expended to the Office of Legislative Operations in  
10 the form and manner prescribed by the Director of Legislative Operations.

11 (3) Lodging. Each member shall receive either a lodging allowance or  
12 reimbursement of actual lodging expenses. ~~Each A~~ member shall be  
13 **presumed to have elected to receive the lodging allowance unless the**  
14 **member** informs the Office of Legislative Operations ~~of the member's choice~~  
15 ~~of a lodging allowance or lodging expense reimbursement annually~~ prior to the  
16 convening of ~~each the~~ regular ~~and or~~ adjourned session **that the member**  
17 **wishes to receive reimbursement of actual lodging expenses.** ~~and the~~  
18 ~~member's choice~~ **A member's election to receive reimbursement of actual**  
19 **lodging expenses** shall remain in effect through the remainder of that session  
20 unless the member notifies the Office, in writing, that the member needs to  
21 change ~~that choice~~ **to the lodging allowance** due to a change in circumstances

1 or for another compelling reason.

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

7 (B) Lodging reimbursement. A member who elects to receive  
8 reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual  
9 amounts expended by the member for lodging for each day that the House in  
10 which the member serves shall sit, as well as lodging for the night preceding  
11 the first legislative day of each week during the legislative session. **The;**  
12 **provided, however, that the total** amount of the **daily weekly** reimbursement  
13 available pursuant to this subdivision **for each week** shall not exceed the **daily**  
14 **amount for lodging determined for Montpelier, Vermont, by the federal Office**  
15 **of Government-wide Policy and published in the Federal Register for the year**  
16 **of the session amount the member would have received for the same week**  
17 **if the member had elected the lodging allowance pursuant to subdivision**  
18 **(A) of this subdivision (3).** The member shall provide lodging receipts or  
19 otherwise substantiate the amounts expended to the Office of Legislative  
20 Operations in the form and manner prescribed by the Director of Legislative  
21 Operations.

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

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

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR THE COMMITTEE