

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

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

16 (B) Meals reimbursement. A member who elects to receive
17 reimbursement of expenses shall receive reimbursement equal to the actual
18 amounts expended by the member for meals for each day that the House in
19 which the member serves shall sit, as well as meals for the night preceding the
20 first legislative day of each week during the legislative session; provided,
21 however, that the total amount of the weekly reimbursement available pursuant

1 to this subdivision shall not exceed the amount the member would have
2 received for the same week if the member had elected the meals allowance
3 pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2). The member shall provide
4 meal receipts or otherwise substantiate the amounts expended to the Office of
5 Legislative Operations in the form and manner prescribed by the Director of
6 Legislative Operations.

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

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

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

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

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

1 **(C) the impact of making members eligible for the State**
2 **employees’ health plan as set forth in Sec. 1 of this act on members of**
3 **different income levels;**

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

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

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

11 **Sec. 7. [Deleted.]**

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

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

16 and by relettering the remaining subsections to be alphabetically correct

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE