

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE BILL NO. 2059  
(Appropriations Committee)  
(At the request of the Legislative Compensation Commission)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 54-03-20 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to lodging expense reimbursement for members of the legislative assembly; to provide for retroactive application; and to declare an emergency.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-03-20. Compensation and expense reimbursement of members of the legislative assembly.** Each member of the legislative assembly ~~of the state of North Dakota~~ is entitled to receive as compensation for services the sum of one hundred twenty-five dollars for each calendar day during any organizational, special, or regular legislative session and for each day that member attends a meeting of a legislative committee between the organizational session and the regular session as authorized by legislative rule. Each member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive reimbursement for lodging, which may not exceed a maximum of ~~six~~ nine hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars per calendar month for lodging in state, at the rates and in the manner provided in section 44-08-04 for each calendar day during the period of any organizational, special, or regular session. Members of the legislative assembly who receive reimbursement for lodging are also entitled to reimbursement for travel for not to exceed one round trip taken during any calendar week, or portion of a week, the legislative assembly is in session, between their residences and the place of meeting of the legislative assembly, at the rate provided for state employees with the additional limitation that reimbursement for travel by common carrier may be only at the cost of coach fare and may not exceed one and one-half times the amount the member would be entitled to receive as mileage reimbursement for travel by motor vehicle. A member of the legislative assembly who does not receive reimbursement for lodging and whose place of residence in the legislative district that the member represents is not within the city of Bismarck is entitled to reimbursement at the rate provided for state employees for necessary travel for not to exceed one round trip taken per day between the residence and the place of meeting of the legislative assembly when it is in session and may receive reimbursement for lodging at the place of meeting of the legislative assembly as provided in section 44-08-04 for each calendar day for which round trip travel reimbursement is not claimed, provided that the total reimbursement may not exceed ~~six~~ nine hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars per month. The amount to which each legislator is entitled must be paid following the organizational session in December and following each month during a regular or special session.

If during a special session, the legislative assembly adjourns for more than three days, a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive compensation during those days only while in attendance at a standing committee if the legislator is a member of that committee, a majority or minority leader, or a legislator who is not on that committee but who has the approval of a majority or minority leader to attend. A day, or portion of a day, spent in traveling to or returning from an organizational, special, or regular session or a legislative committee meeting must be included as a calendar day during a legislative session or as a day of a legislative committee meeting for the purposes of this section.

In addition, each member is entitled to receive during the term for which the member was elected, as compensation for the execution of public duties during the biennium, the sum of two hundred fifty dollars a month, which is payable every six months or monthly, at the member's option. If a member dies or resigns from office during the member's term, the member may be paid only the

allowances provided for in this section for the period for which the member was actually a member. The majority and minority leaders of the house and senate and the chairman of the legislative council, if the chairman is not a majority or minority leader, are each entitled to receive as compensation, in addition to any other compensation or expense reimbursement provided by law, the sum of two hundred fifty dollars per month during the biennium for their execution of public duties.

Attendance at any organizational, special, or regular session of the legislative assembly by any member is a conclusive presumption of entitlement as set out in this section and compensation and expense allowances must be excluded from gross income for income tax purposes to the extent permitted for federal income tax purposes under section 127 of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 [Pub. L. 97-34; 95 Stat. 202; 26 U.S.C. 162(i)].

**SECTION 2. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.** This Act is retroactive in application to January 1, 2005.

**SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2059 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas        38            Nays        7            Absent      2

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:      Yeas        75            Nays        18           Absent      1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005,

at \_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State