

SENATE BILL NO. 311—SENATOR NOLAN

MARCH 24, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to reimbursement for legislators for travel and other expenses during legislative session. (BDR 17-742)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets [omitted-material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the Legislature; revising the amount of the supplemental allowance a Legislator is entitled to receive for a legislative session; authorizing the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to allow a Legislator to exceed the maximum amount of the supplemental allowance under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law entitles a Legislator to receive a maximum supplemental allowance of \$6,800 for a regular session and \$1,000 for a special session. The supplemental allowance must be used for certain travel and housing expenses. (NRS 218.220)

This bill establishes a minimum supplemental allowance of \$7,000 for a regular session and \$1,200 for a special session. This bill also requires the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to recommend to the Legislative Commission the maximum amount of the supplemental allowances for a regular and special session. The Legislative Commission must review the recommendation and establish the maximum amount of the supplemental allowances.

This bill also authorizes the Director to allow a Legislator to exceed the maximum amount of the supplemental allowance if the Director determines that extraordinary circumstances will cause the Legislator to exceed the maximum amount.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1       **Section 1.** NRS 218.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2       218.220 1. The per diem expense allowance and the travel  
3 and telephone expenses of Senators and Assemblymen elected or  
4 appointed and in attendance at any session or presession orientation  
5 conference of the Legislature must be allowed in the manner set  
6 forth in this section.

7       2. For initial travel from his home to Carson City, Nevada, to  
8 attend a session or presession orientation conference of the  
9 Legislature, and for return travel from Carson City, Nevada, to his  
10 home upon adjournment sine die of a session or termination of a  
11 presession orientation conference of the Legislature, each Senator  
12 and Assemblyman is entitled to receive:

13       (a) A per diem expense allowance, not to exceed the maximum  
14 rate established by the Federal Government for the Carson City area,  
15 for one day's travel to and one day's travel from the session or  
16 conference.

17       (b) Travel expenses.

18       3. In addition to the per diem and travel expenses authorized by  
19 subsection 2, each Senator and Assemblyman is entitled to receive a  
20 supplemental allowance *in an amount established by the*  
21 *Legislative Commission pursuant to subsection 13* which must not  
22 ~~exceed:~~

23       ~~—(a) A~~ *be less than:*

24       (a) A total of ~~[\$6,800]~~ *\$7,000* during each regular session of the  
25 Legislature for:

26       (1) His actual expenses in moving to and from Carson City  
27 for the session;

28       (2) Travel to and from his home or temporary residence or  
29 for traveling to and from legislative committee and subcommittee  
30 meetings or hearings or for individual travel within the State which  
31 relates to legislative business;

32       (3) If he rents furniture for his temporary residence rather  
33 than moving similar furniture from his home, the cost of renting that  
34 furniture not to exceed the amount that it would have cost to move  
35 the furniture to and from his home; and

36       (4) If:

37       (I) His home is more than 50 miles from Carson City; and

38       (II) He maintains temporary quarters in or near Carson  
39 City for which he has entered into a lease or other agreement for  
40 occupancy during a regular legislative session,

41       ➔ the cost of such additional housing, paid at the end of each month  
42 during the legislative session, beginning the month of the first day



1 of the legislative session and ending the month of the adjournment  
2 sine die of the legislative session, in an amount that is the fair  
3 market rent for a one bedroom unit in Carson City as published by  
4 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
5 prorated for the number of days of the month that he actually  
6 maintained the temporary quarters in or near Carson City. For the  
7 purposes of this subparagraph, any day before the first day of the  
8 legislative session or after the day of the adjournment sine die of  
9 the legislative session may not be counted as a day for which he  
10 actually maintained such temporary quarters; and

11 (b) A total of ~~(\$1,000)~~ **\$1,200** during each special session of the  
12 Legislature for travel to and from his home or temporary residence  
13 or for traveling to and from legislative committee and subcommittee  
14 meetings or hearings or for individual travel within the State which  
15 relates to legislative business.

16 4. Each Senator and Assemblyman is entitled to receive a per  
17 diem expense allowance, not to exceed the maximum rate  
18 established by the Federal Government for the Carson City area, for  
19 each day that the Legislature is in session or in a presession  
20 orientation conference and for each day that he attends a meeting of  
21 a standing committee of which he is a member when the Legislature  
22 has adjourned for more than 4 days.

23 5. Each Senator and Assemblyman who maintains temporary  
24 quarters in or near Carson City for which he has entered into a lease  
25 or other agreement for continuous occupancy for the duration of a  
26 legislative session is entitled to receive a lodging allowance equal to  
27 that portion of the expense allowance which the Legislative  
28 Commission designates by rule as being allocated to lodging, for not  
29 more than 14 days in each period in which:

30 (a) The Legislature has adjourned until a time certain; and

31 (b) The Senator or Assemblyman is not entitled to a per diem  
32 expense allowance pursuant to subsection 4.

33 6. In addition to the per diem expense allowance authorized by  
34 subsection 4 and the lodging allowance authorized by subsection 5,  
35 each Senator and Assemblyman who maintains temporary quarters  
36 in or near Carson City for which he has entered into a lease or other  
37 agreement for continuous occupancy for the duration of a legislative  
38 session is entitled to receive a lodging allowance equal to that  
39 portion of the expense allowance which the Legislative Commission  
40 designates by rule as being allocated to lodging, for not more than  
41 17 days in each period in which:

42 (a) The Legislature has adjourned for more than 4 days; and

43 (b) The Senator or Assemblyman must obtain temporary lodging  
44 in a location that a standing committee of which he is a member is  
45 meeting.



1       7. Each Senator and Assemblyman is entitled to receive a  
2 lodging allowance equal to that portion of the expense allowance  
3 which the Legislative Commission designates by rule as being  
4 allocated to lodging, for not more than 6 days in each period in  
5 which:

6       (a) The Legislature has adjourned for more than 4 days; and

7       (b) The Senator or Assemblyman must obtain temporary lodging  
8 in a location that a standing committee of which he is a member is  
9 meeting,

10      ➤ if the Senator or Assemblyman is not entitled to the per diem  
11 expense allowance authorized by subsection 4 or the lodging  
12 allowances authorized by subsections 5 and 6.

13       8. Each Senator and Assemblyman is entitled to receive a  
14 telephone allowance of not more than \$2,800 for the payment of  
15 tolls and charges incurred by him in the performance of official  
16 business during each regular session of the Legislature and not more  
17 than \$300 during each special session of the Legislature.

18       9. An employee of the Legislature assigned to serve a standing  
19 committee is entitled to receive the travel expenses and per diem  
20 expense allowance provided by law for state employees generally if  
21 he is required to attend a hearing of the committee outside Carson  
22 City.

23       10. Claims for per diem expense allowances authorized by  
24 subsection 4 and lodging allowances authorized by subsections 5, 6  
25 and 7 must be paid once each week during a legislative session and  
26 upon completion of a presession orientation conference.

27       11. A claim for travel expenses authorized by subsection 2 or 3  
28 must not be paid unless the Senator or Assemblyman submits a  
29 signed statement affirming:

30       (a) The date of the travel; and

31       (b) The places of departure and arrival and, if the travel is by  
32 private conveyance, the actual miles traveled. If the travel is not by  
33 private conveyance, the claim must include a receipt or other  
34 evidence of the expenditure.

35       12. Travel expenses authorized by subsections 2 and 3 are  
36 limited to:

37       (a) If the travel is by private conveyance, a rate equal to the  
38 standard mileage reimbursement rate for which a deduction is  
39 allowed for the purposes of federal income tax. If two or more  
40 Legislators travel in the same private conveyance, the Legislator  
41 who provided or arranged for providing the transportation is  
42 presumed entitled to reimbursement.

43       (b) If the travel is not by private conveyance, the actual amount  
44 expended.



1    ➡ Transportation must be by the most economical means,  
2    considering total cost, time spent in transit and the availability of  
3    state-owned automobiles.

4    *13. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau shall*  
5    *recommend to the Legislative Commission the maximum amount*  
6    *of the supplemental allowance authorized by subsection 3 for a*  
7    *regular session or special session of the Legislature. The*  
8    *Legislative Commission shall review the recommendation and*  
9    *establish the maximum amount of the supplemental allowance for*  
10   *a regular or special session.*

11   *14. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau may*  
12   *authorize a Legislator to exceed the maximum amount of the*  
13   *supplemental allowance established by the Legislative Commission*  
14   *pursuant to subsection 13 for a regular or special session if he*  
15   *determines that extraordinary circumstances will require the*  
16   *Legislator to exceed the maximum amount of the supplemental*  
17   *allowance.*

18    **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.







