

SENATE BILL NO. 311—SENATOR NOLAN

MARCH 24, 2005

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Increases allowance for Legislators for reimbursement of travel and other expenses during legislative session. (BDR 17-742)

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

~

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

AN ACT relating to the Legislature; increasing the amount of the supplemental allowance a Legislator is entitled to receive for reimbursement of travel and other expenses during a legislative session; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Existing law entitles a Legislator to receive a maximum supplemental
2 allowance of \$6,800 for a regular session and \$1,000 for a special session. The
3 supplemental allowance must be used for certain travel and housing expenses.
4 (NRS 218.220)
5 This bill increases that allowance to \$10,000 for a regular session and \$1,200
6 for a special session.

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 pre-session 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 pre-session orientation conference of the



1 Legislature, and for return travel from Carson City, Nevada, to his
2 home upon adjournment sine die of a session or termination of a
3 pre-session orientation conference of the Legislature, each Senator
4 and Assemblyman is entitled to receive:

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

9 (b) Travel expenses.

10 3. In addition to the per diem and travel expenses authorized by
11 subsection 2, each Senator and Assemblyman is entitled to receive a
12 supplemental allowance which must not exceed:

13 (a) A total of ~~[\$6,800]~~ **\$10,000** during each regular session of
14 the Legislature for:

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

17 (2) Travel to and from his home or temporary residence or
18 for traveling to and from legislative committee and subcommittee
19 meetings or hearings or for individual travel within the State which
20 relates to legislative business;

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

25 (4) If:

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

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

30 ➤ the cost of such additional housing, paid at the end of each month
31 during the legislative session, beginning the month of the first day
32 of the legislative session and ending the month of the adjournment
33 sine die of the legislative session, in an amount that is the fair
34 market rent for a one bedroom unit in Carson City as published by
35 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
36 prorated for the number of days of the month that he actually
37 maintained the temporary quarters in or near Carson City. For the
38 purposes of this subparagraph, any day before the first day of the
39 legislative session or after the day of the adjournment sine die of
40 the legislative session may not be counted as a day for which he
41 actually maintained such temporary quarters; and

42 (b) A total of ~~[\$1,000]~~ **\$1,200** during each special session of the
43 Legislature for travel to and from his home or temporary residence
44 or for traveling to and from legislative committee and subcommittee



1 meetings or hearings or for individual travel within the State which
2 relates to legislative business.

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

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

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

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

20 6. In addition to the per diem expense allowance authorized by
21 subsection 4 and the lodging allowance authorized by subsection 5,
22 each Senator and Assemblyman who maintains temporary quarters
23 in or near Carson City for which he has entered into a lease or other
24 agreement for continuous occupancy for the duration of a legislative
25 session is entitled to receive a lodging allowance equal to that
26 portion of the expense allowance which the Legislative Commission
27 designates by rule as being allocated to lodging, for not more than
28 17 days in each period in which:

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

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

33 7. Each Senator and Assemblyman is entitled to receive a
34 lodging allowance equal to that portion of the expense allowance
35 which the Legislative Commission designates by rule as being
36 allocated to lodging, for not more than 6 days in each period in
37 which:

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

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

42 ➔ if the Senator or Assemblyman is not entitled to the per diem
43 expense allowance authorized by subsection 4 or the lodging
44 allowances authorized by subsections 5 and 6.



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

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

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

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

18 (a) The date of the travel; and

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

23 12. Travel expenses authorized by subsections 2 and 3 are
24 limited to:

25 (a) If the travel is by private conveyance, a rate equal to the
26 standard mileage reimbursement rate for which a deduction is
27 allowed for the purposes of federal income tax. If two or more
28 Legislators travel in the same private conveyance, the Legislator
29 who provided or arranged for providing the transportation is
30 presumed entitled to reimbursement.

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

33 ➤ Transportation must be by the most economical means,
34 considering total cost, time spent in transit and the availability of
35 state-owned automobiles.

36 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval
37 and applies to reimbursement of expenses for the 73rd Session of
38 the Nevada Legislature.

