

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SB 197

2021 Regular Session

Cathey

June 10, 2021

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 197 by Senator Cathey, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the House Committee Amendment Set No. 3365 proposed by the House Committee on Ways and Means and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 25, 2021, be rejected.
2. That the House Floor Amendment Set No. 3850 proposed by Representative Miguez and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 3, 2021, be rejected.
3. That the House Floor Amendment Set No. 3772 proposed by Representative Mincey and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 3, 2021, be adopted.
4. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, before line 1, insert the following:

**"C. The first time the assessor chooses to use the automobile expense allowance pursuant to this Section, the assessor shall publish in the official journal of the parish wherein the office is located his choice to receive the expense allowance."**

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

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Senator Stewart Cathey Jr.

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Representative Ryan Joseph Bourriaque

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Senator Bob Hensgens

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Representative Stuart J. Bishop

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Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price

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Representative Dustin Miller

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The legislative instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

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## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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### Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

ASSESSORS. Provides for vehicle allowances for assessors. (gov gig)

#### Report adopts House amendments to:

1. Prohibits an assessor receiving the automobile expense allowance pursuant to proposed law from operating an automobile paid for and maintained by the assessors office unless the operation is limited to occasional use only.

#### Report rejects House amendments which would have:

1. Provided that the amount of the automobile expense allowance shall be equal to the actual amount of cost incurred for the purchase or lease of a personal automobile and for the operation and maintenance expenses fo the assessor's personal automobile.
2. Required the submission of a monthly itemized statement with invoices or receipts supporting the expenses.

#### Report amends the bill to:

1. Provides that the first time the assessor uses the automobile expense allowance the assessor shall advertise in their local official journal their use of the expense allowance.

### Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law provides that in the Iberia Parish Assessment District and the Jefferson Davis Parish Assessment District, the assessor may receive an automobile expense allowance equal to 15% of his annual salary provided the assessor maintains \$300,000 of automobile insurance per accident for bodily injury and \$100,000 of automobile insurance per accident for property damage.

Present law provides that in the assessment districts in Assumption, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, and Webster parishes, the assessor may receive an automobile expense allowance not to exceed 15% of his annual salary provided the assessor maintains \$300,000 of automobile insurance per accident for bodily injury and \$100,000 of automobile insurance per accident for property damage. Provides that the expense allowance must come from existing funds in the assessor's office and at no additional expense to the state or local governing authority.

Proposed law provides that all assessors in the state may receive an automobile expense allowance not to exceed 15% of his annual salary provided the assessor maintains \$300k of automobile insurance per accident for bodily injury and \$100k of automobile insurance per accident for property damage.

Proposed law further provides that the expense allowance will come from existing funds in the assessor's office and at no additional expense to the state or local governing authority.

Proposed law provides that any assessor receiving the car allowance provided for by proposed law will submit an affidavit to the legislative auditor on or before January 31 of each year verifying that he did not use an office automobile during the preceding year.

Proposed law provides that the first time the assessor uses the automobile expense allowance pursuant to proposed law, they shall advertise in their local official journal their choice to receive the expense allowance.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 47:1925.13)