

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 161

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: Provides for the vouchered office expense allowance for members of the legislature

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:31.4(A), relative to the office expense allowance for members
3 of the legislature; to provide for the amount of the allowance; to provide for an
4 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 24:31.4(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §31.4. Members' office allowance

8 A. In addition to the salary, per diem, and all other allowances provided by
9 law for members of the legislature, each member of the legislature shall be paid a
10 monthly expense allowance in the amount of ~~five hundred~~ one thousand dollars per
11 month, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for payment of rent for office space
12 in a parish or parishes which he represents, and for payment of the cost of
13 maintaining utilities in said office or offices and for other expenses related to the
14 holding or conduct of their office.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2022; if vetoed by the governor
17 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
18 2022, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 161 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Lyons

Abstract: Increases the legislative office allowance from \$500 to \$1000 each month.

Present law (R.S. 24:31.4) provides to each member of the legislature an office allowance of up to \$500 each month in vouchered expenses for such items as rent for office space in a parish or parishes which he represents, utilities, telephone, office supplies, and other expenses related to the holding and conducting of legislative office. Requires a member to submit appropriate invoices or receipts in order to have those expenses paid or reimbursed from these funds each month, with the payment in any month not exceeding \$500. Present law prohibits payments for office space located in a legislator's residence or for any office space which is located in property owned wholly or in part by the legislator or a member of his family.

Proposed law increases the office allowance to \$1000 each month and otherwise retains present law.

Effective July 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 24:31.4(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Remove increase of legislative office expense allowance to \$1500 if the average rent for a reasonable commercial office space situated in a parish represented by the legislator exceeds \$500 per month.
2. Increase the legislative office expense allowance from \$500 to \$1000 per month.