

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 335

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

LEGISLATORS. Authorizes additional funding for legislative assistants for legislators representing four or more parishes. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:31.5, relative to legislative assistants for legislators; to  
3 provide for additional funding for legislative assistants of legislators representing  
4 more than four parishes; to provide for funds available to compensate a legislative  
5 assistant; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 24:31.5 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §31.5. Legislative assistants for members

9 A.(1) Each member of the legislature may employ one or more legislative  
10 assistants, who shall be employed as unclassified state employees.

11 (2)(a) The Legislative Budgetary Control Council shall establish and provide  
12 for the implementation of a salary schedule for legislative assistants. The Legislative  
13 Budgetary Control Council may make adjustments to the salary schedule for  
14 legislative assistants as necessary.

15 **(b)(i) The total amount allocated by the Legislative Budgetary Control**  
16 **Council for legislative assistants of a legislator whose legislative district is**  
17 **comprised of all or a part of more than four parishes shall include an additional**

1 amount per year determined by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council for  
2 each parish in excess of four parishes comprising the legislative district for  
3 additional legislative assistants.

4 (ii) The additional allocation authorized in Item (i) of Subparagraph (b)  
5 of this Paragraph shall not be considered as an increase in or used to calculate  
6 the base salary of legislative assistants.

7 (3) Each legislator shall determine the qualification requirements of his  
8 legislative assistant or assistants. However, no person who is a member of the family  
9 of the legislator may serve as his legislative assistant.

10 (4)(a) Each legislative assistant shall perform such duties as the legislator  
11 may assign and shall be paid a salary fixed by the legislator. The salary for any one  
12 legislative assistant shall not exceed the base salary established by the Legislative  
13 Budgetary Control Council plus the equivalent of one step for each year of his  
14 employment as a legislative assistant.

15 (b) If a legislator employs more than one legislative assistant, the total salary  
16 for all his legislative assistants shall not exceed the base salary established by the  
17 Legislative Budgetary Control Council plus the equivalent of one step for each year  
18 of employment as a legislative assistant of the legislative assistant receiving the  
19 highest salary, or the equivalent of one step for each year of the employing  
20 legislator's service as a legislator, at the option of the employing legislator. The  
21 additional allocation authorized in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection shall not  
22 increase the base salary of a legislative assistant but used only for additional  
23 legislative assistants. However, no legislative assistant shall be paid a salary that  
24 exceeds the base salary established by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council  
25 plus the equivalent of one step for each year of his employment as a legislative  
26 assistant.

27 (c) The Legislative Budgetary Control Council shall also provide a detailed  
28 mechanism to factor in other governmental experience into the number of years of  
29 experience of a legislative assistant for determining that legislative assistant's salary.

1 (5) The salary of each legislative assistant shall be paid from the funds of the  
2 respective house, withdrawn from the state treasury and deposited in the manner  
3 provided in R.S. 24:31.1, and shall be paid to each individual legislative assistant  
4 whose employment and salary have been certified by a member to his respective  
5 presiding officer. Payment shall be by check signed by the speaker of the House of  
6 Representatives as to the salary of legislative assistants to House members and by  
7 the president of the Senate as to the salary of legislative assistants to Senate  
8 members. Facsimile signatures may be used.

9 (6) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the use of contractual secretarial  
10 services in lieu of one or more legislative assistants who shall be paid in accordance  
11 with the salary schedule established by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

12 B. Each legislator who employs one or more legislative assistants as provided  
13 in this Section shall notify the presiding officer of his house in writing as to the name  
14 of each such legislative assistant and the salary to be paid. Any change of person or  
15 salary shall be reported to the presiding officer of his house within ten days after  
16 such change. The respective presiding officer shall hold such reports during the term  
17 of office of the legislator involved.

18 C.(1)(a) If a legislator employs only one legislative assistant, the assistant  
19 may participate in the state's group life, health, and hospitalization insurance  
20 program and the state employees' retirement system if the assistant receives at least  
21 sixty percent of the total compensation available to employ the legislative assistant.

22 (b) When a legislator employs more than one legislative assistant, the  
23 primary legislative assistant may participate in the state's group life, health, and  
24 hospitalization insurance program and the state employees' retirement system.  
25 "Primary legislative assistant" means the legislative assistant who receives the  
26 highest salary and whose salary is at least sixty percent of the total salary that such  
27 assistant can be paid.

28 (c) Any legislative assistant who does not meet the criteria set forth in this  
29 Subsection shall not be eligible to participate in these benefits.

- 1 (2) All legislative assistants shall be eligible for workers' compensation  
2 coverage as state employees immediately upon employment.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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## DIGEST

SB 335 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Jackson-Andrews

Present law requires the Legislative Budgetary Control Council to establish and implement a salary schedule for legislative assistants and to make adjustments as necessary.

Proposed law retains present law but authorizes the Legislative Budgetary Control Council to increase the annual allocation for assistants of a legislator whose district is comprised of all or a part of more than four parishes to include an additional amount per year to be determined by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council for each parish in excess of three parishes comprising the legislative district.

Proposed law provides that this additional allocation is not to be considered as an increase in or used to calculate the base salary of legislative assistants.

Present law provides that if a legislator employs more than one legislative assistant, the total salary for all his legislative assistants is not to exceed the base salary established by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council plus the equivalent of one step for each year of employment as a legislative assistant of the legislative assistant receiving the highest salary, or the equivalent of one step for each year of the employing legislator's service as a legislator, at the option of the employing legislator.

Proposed law retains the present law but provides that the additional allocation per year for each parish in excess of four parishes in the legislative district does not increase the base salary of a legislative assistant but is to be used only for additional legislative assistants.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 24:31.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Updates the number of parishes from three to four for the additional amount.