

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 665

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARRAS

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES: Makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for  
Fiscal Year 2017-2018

1 AN ACT

2 To appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to defray the expenses of the Louisiana  
3 Legislature, including the expenses of the House of Representatives and the Senate,  
4 of legislative service agencies, and of the Louisiana State Law Institute; to provide  
5 for the salary, expenses, and allowances of members, officers, staff, and agencies of  
6 the Legislature; to provide with respect to the appropriations and allocations herein  
7 made; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. The sum of Seventy-Three Million Four Hundred Thirty-One Thousand  
10 Eight Hundred Twenty-Six and No/100 (\$73,431,826.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may  
11 be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the state general fund and the sum of Twenty-  
12 Two Million Three Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Seven and  
13 No/100 (\$22,373,567.00) Dollars is hereby appropriated out of self-generated funds to  
14 defray the expenses of the legislature, including the House of Representatives and the  
15 Senate, the staffs of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, the Legislative Auditor,  
16 the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, and the Louisiana  
17 State Law Institute.

18 Section 2.(A)(1) Out of the total amount herein appropriated from the state general,  
19 fund, Fifty Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight and  
20 No/100 (\$50,762,798.00) Dollars is hereby allocated to provide the salary and allowances  
21 of members, officers, and staff of the House of Representatives, and the salary and

1 allowances for the speaker of the House of Representatives and for expenses of his office,  
2 including reimbursement for actual expenses as presiding officer and for his service to or for  
3 the benefit of the House of Representatives, the legislature, the legislative branch of  
4 government, or the state, as determined by the speaker, and to provide the salary and  
5 allowances of members, officers, and staff of the Senate, and the salary and allowances for  
6 the president of the Senate and for expenses of his office, including reimbursement for actual  
7 expenses as presiding officer and for his service to or for the benefit of the Senate, the  
8 legislature, the legislative branch of government, or the state, as determined by the president  
9 of the Senate. These funds also shall be used to pay mileage and per diem of the members  
10 of the legislature and mileage and per diem expenses of committees; salaries and/or expense  
11 allowances of officers and employees of the legislature; costs of renovations, maintenance,  
12 repairs, and necessary additions to the House and/or Senate chambers and other legislative  
13 rooms; audio-visual systems, information networks, technological enhancements, and  
14 technical support; printing the bills, journals, and calendars; computer equipment and  
15 services; library services; provision of accessibility services for persons with disabilities  
16 during sessions of the legislature and during the interim; and for all other expenses of the  
17 legislature. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, any and all  
18 monies paid to an employee of the legislature shall be used to determine full-time status and  
19 for the eligibility and calculation of all benefits, including, but not limited to, retirement and  
20 insurance. This provision shall be remedial in nature and shall not eliminate or reduce any  
21 current benefits of a legislative employee. In addition to the amounts and limitations  
22 provided in R.S. 24:31.5, these funds shall also be used to provide an additional two hundred  
23 seventy-five dollars per month to the total amount available to each legislator for the salary  
24 of his legislative assistants which shall be obtained and disbursed as hereinafter provided.

25 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 24:31.5, any legislative assistant  
26 employed on or before December 1, 2007, may retain the salary they were earning on  
27 December 1, 2007.

28 (B) Of the sum above allocated to the two houses of the legislature, Twenty-Eight  
29 Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Three Hundred and No/100 (\$28,998,300.00)  
30 Dollars is hereby set aside and allocated for the use of the House of Representatives and

1 Twenty-One Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Eight and  
2 No/100 (\$21,764,498.00) Dollars for the use of the Senate.

3 (C) The presiding officer of each house shall warrant on the state treasurer in favor  
4 of the House of Representatives or the Senate, as the case may be, for the allocation herein  
5 provided, or for so much thereof as may be necessary. The aforesaid warrants shall be paid  
6 out of the state general fund, and the state treasurer shall pay said warrants by preference  
7 over all other warrants, except warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state,  
8 which shall be concurrent with the warrants provided for by this Act.

9 (D)(1) The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the  
10 House of Representatives or the Senate, as the case may be, in an approved bank located in  
11 this state selected by the presiding officer of each house. Payment of per diem and mileage,  
12 salaries of the members, officers, and employees, and other expenses of the legislature shall  
13 be made by individual check, payable to the person or firm entitled thereto, signed by the  
14 presiding officer of the House of Representatives as to disbursements by the House, and as  
15 to disbursements by the Senate, signed by the president of the Senate. Facsimile signatures  
16 may be used; such payment also may be made by electronic funds transfer through the  
17 automated clearing house and deposited into the account of the person or firm entitled to  
18 such payment.

19 (2) Copies of legislative documents of the Senate and the House shall be provided  
20 at fees according to policy and schedules adopted by the secretary of the Senate and clerk  
21 of the House, jointly, and approved by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the  
22 House, jointly. Funds derived from the sale of legislative documents of the Senate and the  
23 House during the 2018 Regular Session shall be used to offset the cost of printing the  
24 journals and calendars.

25 (3) The legislature is hereby expressly authorized to receive and expend any monies  
26 received as a result of any grants or donations or other forms of assistance as provided for  
27 in Article VII, Section 9(A)(1) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

28 (E) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the two houses, any portion of the  
29 funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations and any self-  
30 generated revenues that are not required for the expenses of the 2017 Regular Session of the

1 Legislature, including printing and all expenses in connection therewith, are hereby  
2 appropriated and may be used to pay the mileage, per diem, expenses of committees, and any  
3 other expenses of the legislature during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year; however, all funds  
4 remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general fund on  
5 or before October 1, 2018.

6 Section 3.(A) The sum of Ten Million Ninety-Three Thousand Eight Hundred  
7 Thirty-Eight and No/100 (\$10,093,838.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total  
8 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the legislative  
9 auditor, to pay the expenses of his office, including the salaries and expenses of his  
10 employees, the costs of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by that office in  
11 connection with the operation thereof during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

12 (B)(1) The sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and No/100 (\$350,000.00) Dollars  
13 is hereby appropriated, payable from the state general fund, to establish an agency working  
14 capital fund to be known as the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund. Of the funds  
15 available in the ancillary enterprise fund, the sum of Twenty-Two Million Three Hundred  
16 Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Seven and No/100 (\$22,373,567.00) Dollars  
17 is authorized to be used by the legislative auditor, in addition to the amount allocated in  
18 Section 3.(A) hereof, to pay the expenses of his office, including the salaries and expenses  
19 of his employees, the costs of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by that office in  
20 connection with the operations thereof during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

21 (2) The legislative auditor, in addition to the authority contained in R.S. 24:517.1,  
22 shall be authorized to receive reimbursement of actual expenses of audits performed on  
23 federally funded programs, both direct and indirect, and regulatory boards funded primarily  
24 from fees and self-generated revenues and self-supported enterprise functions for the  
25 purpose of generating revenue to pay expenses as provided in Section 3.(B)(1) of this Act.  
26 Reimbursement for audits performed on federally funded programs shall be limited to  
27 reimbursement authorized by federal laws and regulations.

28 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, including the General  
29 Appropriation Act, in addition to the authority contained in R.S. 24:517.1 and 517.3, the  
30 legislative auditor is authorized to allocate and collect from each auditee included in the

1 state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, exclusive of those auditees audited by  
2 independent certified public accountants, such amounts as may be reasonably necessary to  
3 compensate the legislative auditor for services rendered and costs incurred in connection  
4 with the audit of each auditee. In the collection of such amounts, the legislative auditor  
5 shall, on or after the first day of July of each year, notify and warrant, without any other  
6 approval, the state treasurer of the amount allocated to each auditee. The state treasurer,  
7 upon receipt of said notice and warrant, shall transfer forthwith the amounts allocated to  
8 each auditee from monies accruing or available to the auditee to the Legislative Auditor  
9 Ancillary Enterprise Fund. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the sum of all amounts allocated  
10 to all such auditees shall not exceed the amount appropriated to the legislative auditor from  
11 the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund in accordance with Section 3.(B)(1)  
12 herein.

13 (C) In the conduct of such functions all receipts of self-generated revenues shall be  
14 deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise  
15 Fund and disbursements made by the state treasurer to the extent of the amounts deposited  
16 to the credit of such fund in accordance with provisions of law governing expenditures. All  
17 monies from self-generated revenue of the legislative auditor's office shall be paid to the  
18 Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund and shall be deemed to be available for  
19 expenditure in the amount herein appropriated, and any increase in self-generated revenue  
20 over the amount herein appropriated shall be available for expenditure by the legislative  
21 auditor only on approval by the co-chairmen of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

22 (D) The legislative auditor shall warrant on the state treasurer for the monies  
23 allocated by this Section, and the warrant shall be paid by the state treasurer out of the state  
24 general fund. The funds so drawn shall be disbursed only in accordance with budgeted  
25 amounts provided herein and such amendments as may be approved by the Legislative  
26 Budgetary Control Council.

27 (E) In addition to any portion of the funds herein allocated in this Section to the  
28 legislative auditor, any portion of the funds previously appropriated to the legislative auditor,  
29 and all other revenue and funds of the legislative auditor, or interest earnings, are hereby  
30 appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the legislative auditor. These funds

1 shall be subject to warrant by the legislative auditor on the state treasurer, in an amount not  
2 to exceed the total balance remaining at the end of the previous fiscal year; however, all  
3 funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general  
4 fund on or before October 1, 2018.

5 Section 4.(A) The sum of Two Million Eight Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Six  
6 Hundred Sixty-Four and No/100 (\$2,886,664.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total  
7 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the Joint  
8 Legislative Committee on the Budget, to be used solely for the operations of the Legislative  
9 Fiscal Office and in particular to pay the expenses thereof, including the salaries and  
10 expenses of its employees, the cost of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by said  
11 office in connection with the operation thereof during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. The  
12 operations and functions of the Legislative Fiscal Office shall be under the direction and  
13 supervision of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Any contracts for consultant  
14 services shall be approved by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council and the Joint  
15 Legislative Committee on the Budget.

16 (B) The legislative fiscal officer shall warrant on the state treasurer for the allocation  
17 provided by this Section, and the warrant shall be paid by the state treasurer out of the state  
18 general fund. The funds so drawn shall be disbursed only in accordance with a budget  
19 approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the Legislative Budgetary  
20 Control Council.

21 (C) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Legislative Fiscal Office, any  
22 portion of the funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations and  
23 any self-generated revenues that are not required for the expenses of the 2017 Regular  
24 Session of the Legislature, including printing and all expenses in connection therewith, are  
25 hereby appropriated and may be used to pay expenses of the Legislative Fiscal Office during  
26 the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered  
27 shall be returnable to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2018.

28 Section 5.(A) The sum of One Million One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Four  
29 Hundred One and No/100 (\$1,131,401.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total  
30 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the Louisiana State

1 Law Institute, to pay the expenses thereof, including the salaries and expenses of its  
2 employees, the cost of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by said office in  
3 connection with the operation thereof during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

4 (B) The executive director of the Louisiana State Law Institute shall warrant on the  
5 state treasurer for the allocation provided by this Section, and the warrant shall be paid by  
6 the state treasurer out of the state general fund. The funds so drawn shall be disbursed only  
7 in accordance with a budget approved by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council and  
8 subject to the budgetary control of said council.

9 (C) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Louisiana State Law Institute,  
10 any portion of the funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations  
11 and any self-generated revenues may be used to pay expenses of the Louisiana State Law  
12 Institute during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or  
13 unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2018.

14 Section 6.(A) The sum of Eight Million Five Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand One  
15 Hundred Twenty-Five and No/100 (\$8,557,125.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the  
16 total appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act and the balance  
17 on July 2, 2017 of the fund created pursuant to Section 13 of Act 513 of the 2008 Regular  
18 Session is hereby appropriated to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, all of which  
19 may be used to pay the expenses thereof, including salaries and expenses of certain  
20 legislative employees, expenses of the Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library, the David R.  
21 Poynter Legislative Research Library, contracts for professional services, mileage and per  
22 diem expenses of the interim activities of joint legislative committees created by statute or  
23 by the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives to which no specific  
24 allocation of funds is made in this Act, as approved by the council or, jointly, by the co-  
25 chairmen of the council, the cost of construction, maintenance, repair, improvements,  
26 renovations, and access to the capitol building, capitol annex building, building for  
27 legislative use, pentagon courts, and arsenal building, and adjacent grounds, and purchase,  
28 maintenance, and repair of furniture and equipment, audio-visual systems, information  
29 networks, technological enhancements, technical support, and computer equipment and  
30 services, as jointly approved by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, the cost of equipment, dues to legislative associations, to pay costs to  
2 maintain actuarial integrity of the state retirement system affected by the inclusion of certain  
3 legislative employees, and all other expenses incurred by said council in connection with the  
4 operation thereof during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

5 (B) The co-chairmen of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council shall jointly  
6 warrant on the state treasurer for the monies appropriated and allocated by this Section, and  
7 the state treasurer shall pay their warrants by preference over all other warrants, except  
8 warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state, which shall be concurrent with  
9 warrants provided for by this Act.

10 (C) The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the  
11 Legislative Budgetary Control Council in an approved bank located in this state selected by  
12 the presiding co-chairmen of the council. Payment of per diem and mileage, salaries of the  
13 officers and employees, and other expenses of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council  
14 shall be made by individual check, payable to the person or firm entitled thereto, signed by  
15 the presiding co-chairmen of the council. Facsimile signatures may be used; such payment  
16 also may be made by electronic funds transfer through the automated clearing house and  
17 deposited into the account of the person or firm entitled to such payment.

18 (D) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Legislative Budgetary Control  
19 Council, any portion of the funds previously appropriated, or interest earnings on any such  
20 appropriations, and self-generated revenues are hereby appropriated and may be used to pay  
21 any expenses of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council during the 2017-2018 Fiscal  
22 Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable  
23 to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2018.

24 Section 7. In accordance with R.S. 39:51(D), a comparative statement of the existing  
25 operating budget for FY 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017 and the appropriation for FY 2017-  
26 2018 from the state general fund is as follows:



1	<b>Entity</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>
2		<b>(Act 76 of 2015)</b>	<b>(Act 77 of 2016)</b>	
3	House of Representatives	\$28,998,300	\$26,098,470	\$28,998,300
4	Senate	\$21,764,498	\$19,588,048	\$21,764,498
5	Legislative Auditor	\$10,014,823	\$9,013,341	\$10,093,838
6	Legislative Fiscal Office	\$2,886,664	\$2,597,998	\$2,886,664
7	La. State Law Institute	\$1,131,401	\$1,018,261	\$1,131,401
8	Legislative Budgetary			
9	Control Council	\$8,557,125	\$7,701,412	\$8,557,125
10	Total state general fund	\$73,352,811	\$63,522,124	\$73,431,826

11           The Legislative Auditor for FY 2015-2016 was appropriated self-generated funds in  
12 the amount of \$24,954,064, for FY 2016-2017 was appropriated self-generated funds in the  
13 amount of \$22,584,095, and for FY 2017-2018 is appropriated self-generated funds in the  
14 amount of \$22,373,567. The Legislative Budgetary Control Council for FY 2015-2016 was  
15 appropriated the balance of the technology fund on July 2, 2015, for FY 2016-2017 was  
16 appropriated the balance on July 2, 2016, and for FY 2017-2018 is appropriated the balance  
17 on July 2, 2017 of said fund.

18           Act 3 of the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana reduced the  
19 State General Fund (Direct appropriation) for FY 2016-2017 for the legislature in the  
20 amount of \$3,544,574 and further required the legislative auditor to remit \$2,000,000 from  
21 the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund to the state treasurer for deposit into the  
22 state general fund.

23           Section 8. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017; if vetoed by the governor  
24 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
25 2017, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

