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DIGEST

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**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

**HB 8**

**2020 First Extraordinary Session**

**Schexnayder**

**Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House**

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES: Makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (Item #3)

**Report adopts Senate amendments to:**

1. Add language prohibiting market rate salary increases during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, absent certain circumstances.
2. Delete language appropriating \$75,000 in State General Fund (Direct) to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council for costs and expenses of the Streamlining Government Commission.
3. Make a technical correction to the total amount of State General Fund (Direct) appropriated for the current fiscal year.

**Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:**

1. Made technical changes renumbering section headings.
2. Added a special effective date for the funding for the Streamlining Government Commission language, which was later deleted in floor amendments.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Make technical changes renumbering section headings.

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

Provides for the expenses of the legislature and legislative service agencies. Appropriates \$74,093,881 from the state general fund for FY 2020-2021 including the following:

House of Representatives	\$	28,998,300
Senate	\$	21,764,498
Legislative Auditor	\$	10,483,708
Legislative Fiscal Office	\$	3,158,849
Louisiana State Law Institute	\$	1,131,401
Legislative Budgetary Control Council	\$	<u>8,557,125</u>
Total state general fund	\$	<u>74,093,881</u>

Provides for the allocation of funds for salaries and allowances of members, officers, and staff of the House and Senate. Provides the balance on July 2, 2020, of the fund created by Act 513, §13 of 2008 RS is appropriated to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

Appropriates \$350,000 from the state general fund to establish the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund as an agency working capital fund; appropriates \$23,525,043 from the fund, which is authorized to be used for expenses of the auditor's office.

Retains provisions of existing law allowing legislative assistants who were employed on or before Dec. 1, 2007, to retain the salary they were earning on Dec. 1, 2007.

Requires appropriations from State General Fund (Direct) be reduced by \$12,851,010 pursuant to a plan adopted by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

Appropriates \$3,000,000 in federal funds to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council for COVID-19 related expenses.

Appropriates additional funding to the legislative auditor for work performed on programs established pursuant to the Act that originated as SB 189 of the 2020 Regular Session. Authorizes \$2,500,000 in interagency transfers from the treasurer to the legislative auditor and \$271,501 from the Coronavirus Local Recovery Allocation Fund for such work.

Provides that no legislative employee shall be eligible for or granted a market rate salary increase during the 2020-2021 fiscal year unless such increase is authorized by the legislature on or before October 15, 2020, or by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council if the legislature has not convened by October 15, 2020. Further provides that salary increase restrictions in proposed law do not apply to promotions.

Effective July 1, 2020.