

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 under certain
4 circumstances; to provide for an 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.(1) ~~In~~ Except as otherwise provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection,
9 in addition to the salary, per diem, and all other allowances provided by law for
10 members of the legislature, each member of the legislature shall be paid a monthly
11 expense allowance in the amount of five hundred dollars per month, or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary, for payment of rent for office space in a parish or
13 parishes which he represents, and for payment of the cost of maintaining utilities in
14 said office or offices and for other expenses related to the holding or conduct of their
15 office.

16 (2) If the average rent for a reasonable commercial office space situated in
17 a parish which a member represents exceeds five hundred dollars per month, then in
18 addition to the salary, per diem, and all other allowances provided by law for
19 members of the legislature, such member of the legislature shall be paid a monthly
20 expense allowance in the amount of fifteen hundred dollars per month, or so much

1 thereof as may be necessary, for payment of rent for office space in a parish or
2 parishes which he represents, and for payment of the cost of maintaining utilities in
3 said office or offices and for other expenses related to the holding or conduct of their
4 office.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2022; if vetoed by the governor
7 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
8 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 Original

2022 Regular Session

Lyons

Abstract: Authorizes a maximum office allowance of \$1500 per month for a legislator if the average rent for a reasonable commercial office space situated in a parish represented by the legislator exceeds five hundred dollars per 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 retains present law, but provides that if the average rent for a reasonable commercial office space situated in a parish which a member represents exceeds \$500 per month, then such member of the legislature shall be paid a monthly expense allowance in the amount of \$1500 per month, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for payment of rent for office space in a parish or parishes which he represents, and for payment of the cost of maintaining utilities in said office or offices and for other expenses related to the holding or conduct of their office.

Effective July 1, 2022.

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