

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 307

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC OFFLS/EMPS: Prohibits payment for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for state public officials and employees from exceeding amounts for such expenses established by the United States General Services Administration

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 39:231(A) and to enact R.S. 13:6, R.S. 24:21, and R.S.  
3 39:231(E), relative to travel by state government officers and employees; to provide  
4 a maximum for payments by the state for certain types of travel expenses; to provide  
5 for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §6. Maximum payment for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for certain  
9 agencies and entities in the judicial branch

10 A. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, and notwithstanding any  
11 other provision of law to the contrary, no court authorized by Article V of the  
12 Constitution of Louisiana or any state entity in the judicial branch shall pay more for  
13 lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for any officer or employee than the rates  
14 established by the United States General Services Administration for such expenses.

15 B. For a conference or meeting that has lodging reserved or recommended  
16 near the conference or meeting facility, if an officer or employee submits  
17 documentation proving that it would cost less to stay at the reserved or recommended  
18 lodging rather than elsewhere and commute, the officer or employee may be  
19 reimbursed the full reserved or recommended lodging rate even if it exceeds the  
20 United States General Services Administration lodging rate for that locale.

1 Section 2. R.S. 24:21 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §21. Maximum payment for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for the  
3 legislative branch

4 A. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, and notwithstanding any  
5 other provision of law to the contrary, no agency or entity in the legislative branch  
6 shall pay more for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for any officer or employee  
7 than the rates established by the United States General Services Administration for  
8 such expenses.

9 B. For a conference or meeting that has lodging reserved or recommended  
10 near the conference or meeting facility, if an officer or employee submits  
11 documentation proving that it would cost less to stay at the reserved or recommended  
12 lodging rather than elsewhere and commute, the officer or employee may be  
13 reimbursed the full reserved or recommended lodging rate even if it exceeds the  
14 United States General Services Administration lodging rate for that locale.

15 Section 3. R.S. 39:231(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 39:231(E) is  
16 hereby enacted to read as follows:

17 §231. Commissioner to prescribe rules governing travel and traveling expenses; use  
18 of state aircraft and other vehicles by statewide elected officials; minimum  
19 prices allowed for meals to state employees; maximum payment for certain  
20 travel expenses for state officers and employees

21 \* \* \*

22 A. Except as otherwise provided in ~~Subsection B, Subsection C, and~~  
23 ~~Subsection D~~ this Section, the commissioner of administration, with the approval of  
24 the governor, shall, by rule or regulation, prescribe the conditions under which each  
25 of various forms of transportation may be used by state officers and employees in the  
26 discharge of the duties of their respective offices and positions in the state service  
27 and the conditions under which allowances will be granted for traveling expenses.

28 \* \* \*

1           E.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, and notwithstanding  
2           any other provision of law to the contrary, no agency or entity in the executive  
3           branch shall pay more for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for any state officer  
4           or employee than the rates established by the United States General Services  
5           Administration for such expenses.

6           (2) For a conference or meeting that has lodging reserved or recommended  
7           near the conference or meeting facility, if an officer or employee submits  
8           documentation proving that it would cost less to stay at the reserved or recommended  
9           lodging rather than elsewhere and commute, the officer or employee may be  
10           reimbursed the full reserved or recommended lodging rate even if it exceeds the  
11           United States General Services Administration lodging rate for that locale.

12           Section 4. This Act shall apply to expenses for lodging and meals and incidental  
13           expenses incurred on and after July 1, 2023. Reimbursements for such expenses incurred  
14           prior to July 1, 2023, but submitted after that date shall be at the rate in effect for the paying  
15           organization at the time the expense was incurred.

16           Section 5. The provisions of this Act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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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)]

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HB 307 Original

2023 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Prohibits payment by any agency or entity of the state in excess of amounts established by the U.S. General Services Administration (USGA) for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses for such expenses for any officer or employee of any branch of state government.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Present law (R.S. 13:1 et seq.) establishes general provisions governing the judicial officers and employees of the state court system. Except as otherwise provided in proposed law, proposed law prohibits any court authorized by present constitution (Art. V) or any state entity in the judicial branch from paying more for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for any officer or employee than the rate established by the USGA for such expenses. Further provides an exception for a conference or meeting that has lodging reserved or recommended near the conference or meeting facility. In such case, if the officer or employee submits documentation proving that it would cost less to stay at the reserved or recommended lodging rather than elsewhere and commute, proposed law authorizes the

officer or employee to be reimbursed the full reserved or recommended lodging rate even if it exceeds the USGA lodging rate for that locale.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Present law (R.S. 24:1 et seq.) establishes general provisions governing the operations of the legislature. Except as otherwise provided in proposed law, proposed law prohibits any agency or entity in the legislative branch from paying more for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for any officer or employee than the rate established by the USGA for such expenses. Further provides an exception for a conference or meeting that has lodging reserved or recommended near the conference or meeting facility. In such case, if the officer or employee submits documentation proving that it would cost less to stay at the reserved or recommended lodging rather than elsewhere and commute, proposed law authorizes the officer or employee to be reimbursed the full reserved or recommended lodging rate even if it exceeds the USGA lodging rate for that locale.

#### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Present law (R.S. 39:231) authorizes the commissioner of administration, with the approval of the governor, to prescribe the conditions under which state officers and employees may be granted travel expenses. Except as otherwise provided in proposed law, proposed law prohibits any agency or entity in the executive branch from paying more for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for any officer or employee than the rate established by the USGA for such expenses. Further provides an exception for a conference or meeting that has lodging reserved or recommended near the conference or meeting facility. In such case, if the officer or employee submits documentation proving that it would cost less to stay at the reserved or recommended lodging rather than elsewhere and commute, proposed law authorizes the officer or employee to be reimbursed the full reserved or recommended lodging rate even if it exceeds the USGA lodging rate for that locale.

Proposed law applies to expenses for lodging and meals and incidental expenses incurred on and after July 1, 2023. Reimbursements for such expenses incurred prior to July 1, 2023, but submitted after that date are to be at the rate in effect for the paying organization at the time the expense was incurred.

Effective July 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 39:231(A); Adds R.S. 13:6, R.S. 24:21, and R.S. 39:231(E))