

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE SALTER

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES: Provides relative to payment of certain expenses related to the legislative offices of certain temporarily displaced legislators (Item #62)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 24:31.4(D), relative to office expense allowances for members of the
3 legislature; to provide for the payment of rent and other expenses for members of the
4 legislature under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 24:31.4(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §31.4. Members' office allowance

8 * * *

9 D. However, in the event of a disaster or other emergency which necessitates
10 the temporary relocation of a legislator's district office or in the event a legislator's
11 district office is damaged to an extent that impedes the function of the office, the
12 presiding officer of the house of the legislator may authorize the payment of rent for
13 office space within the state and the reimbursement of other expenses related to the
14 holding or conduct of the legislator's office during the duration of the temporary
15 relocation or district office recovery process, as the case may be. Each such
16 legislator shall be required to file with the presiding officer, prior to payment of such
17 expenses each month, an itemized statement of expenses and appropriate invoices
18 or receipts supporting the same. The total amount of the payment and
19 reimbursement for a legislator's office expenses, including those authorized by this

1 Subsection, shall not exceed the total amount per month for office expenses to which
2 the legislator is otherwise entitled by law and the rules of procedure of his house.

3 Section 2. This Act is declared to be remedial, curative, and procedural and therefore
4 is to be applied retroactively as well as prospectively.

5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
9 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Salter

HB No. 7

Abstract: Provides for the payment of rent and other expenses for members of the legislature in the event of a disaster or other emergency which necessitates the temporary relocation of a legislator's district office or in the event a legislator's district office is damaged to an extent that impedes the function of the office.

Present law (R.S. 24:31.4) provides to each member of the legislature a member's 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 rules (House Rule 6.26 and Senate Rule 13.22) additionally provide that the House Executive Committee, for the members of the House of Representatives, and the Senate Executive Committee, for the members of the Senate, may establish an annual vouchered allotment to be used for expenses incurred in the course and scope of legislative duties such as rent for office space, electricity, water, gas, telephone, communication services, stationery, supplies, mileage or expense reimbursement for official travel, and other expenses related to the holding or conduct of office.

Proposed law retains present law and present rules and additionally provides that in the event of a disaster or other emergency which necessitates the temporary relocation of a legislator's district office or in the event a legislator's district office is damaged to an extent that impedes the function of the office, the presiding officer of the house of the legislator may authorize the payment of rent for office space within the state and the reimbursement of other expenses related to the holding or conduct of the legislator's office during the duration of the temporary relocation or district office recovery process, as the case may be. Requires the legislator to submit appropriate invoices or receipts in order to have those expenses paid or reimbursed and provides that the total amount of the payment and reimbursement, including those authorized by proposed law, shall not exceed the total amount per month for office

expenses to which the legislator is otherwise entitled by present law and present rules of his house.

Provides that the provisions of the Act are remedial, curative, and procedural and are to be applied retroactively as well as prospectively.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 24:31.4(D))