

Existing 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.

Existing 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.

New law retains existing law and existing 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 an itemized statement of expenses and appropriate invoices or receipts in order to have those expenses paid or reimbursed. Provides that the total amount of the payment and reimbursement, including those authorized by new law, shall not exceed the total amount per month for office expenses to which the legislator is otherwise entitled by existing law and existing 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 (November 29, 2005).

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