

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 695

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHEXNAYDER AND ZERINGUE

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES: Makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

1 AN ACT

2 To appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to defray the expenses of the Louisiana
3 Legislature, including the expenses of the House of Representatives and the Senate,
4 of legislative service agencies, and of the Louisiana State Law Institute; to provide
5 for the salary, expenses, and allowances of members, officers, staff, and agencies of
6 the Legislature; to provide with respect to the appropriations and allocations herein
7 made; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. The sum of Seventy-Four Million Ninety-Three Thousand Eight Hundred
10 Eighty-One and No/100 (\$74,093,881.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
11 is hereby appropriated out of the state general fund and the sum of Twenty-Three Million
12 Eight Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Five and No/100
13 (\$23,824,945.00) Dollars is hereby appropriated out of self-generated funds to defray the
14 expenses of the legislature, including the House of Representatives and the Senate, the staffs
15 of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative
16 Fiscal Office, the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, and the Louisiana State Law
17 Institute.

18 Section 2.(A)(1) Out of the total amount herein appropriated from the state general
19 fund, Fifty Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Eight and
20 No/100 (\$50,762,798.00) Dollars is hereby allocated to provide the salary and allowances

1 of members, officers, and staff of the House of Representatives, and the salary and
2 allowances for the speaker of the House of Representatives and for expenses of his office,
3 including reimbursement for actual expenses as presiding officer and for his service to or for
4 the benefit of the House of Representatives, the legislature, the legislative branch of
5 government, or the state, as determined by the speaker, and to provide the salary and
6 allowances of members, officers, and staff of the Senate, and the salary and allowances for
7 the president of the Senate and for expenses of his office, including reimbursement for actual
8 expenses as presiding officer and for his service to or for the benefit of the Senate, the
9 legislature, the legislative branch of government, or the state, as determined by the president
10 of the Senate. These funds also shall be used to pay mileage and per diem of the members
11 of the legislature and mileage and per diem expenses of committees; salaries and/or expense
12 allowances of officers and employees of the legislature; costs of renovations, maintenance,
13 repairs, and necessary additions to the House and/or Senate chambers and other legislative
14 rooms; audio-visual systems, information networks, technological enhancements, and
15 technical support; printing the bills, journals, and calendars; computer equipment and
16 services; library services; provision of accessibility services for persons with disabilities
17 during sessions of the legislature and during the interim; and for all other expenses of the
18 legislature. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, any and all
19 monies paid to an employee of the legislature shall be used to determine full-time status and
20 for the eligibility and calculation of all benefits, including, but not limited to, retirement and
21 insurance. This provision shall be remedial in nature and shall not eliminate or reduce any
22 current benefits of a legislative employee. In addition to the amounts and limitations
23 provided in R.S. 24:31.5, these funds shall also be used to provide an additional two hundred
24 seventy-five dollars per month to the total amount available to each legislator for the salary
25 of his legislative assistants which shall be obtained and disbursed as hereinafter provided.

26 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 24:31.5, any legislative assistant
27 employed on or before December 1, 2007, may retain the salary they were earning on
28 December 1, 2007.

1 (B) Of the sum above allocated to the two houses of the legislature, Twenty-Eight
2 Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Three Hundred and No/100 (\$28,998,300.00)
3 Dollars is hereby set aside and allocated for the use of the House of Representatives and
4 Twenty-One Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Eight and
5 No/100 (\$21,764,498.00) Dollars for the use of the Senate.

6 (C) The presiding officer of each house shall warrant on the state treasurer in favor
7 of the House of Representatives or the Senate, as the case may be, for the allocation herein
8 provided, or for so much thereof as may be necessary. The aforesaid warrants shall be paid
9 out of the state general fund, and the state treasurer shall pay said warrants by preference
10 over all other warrants, except warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state,
11 which shall be concurrent with the warrants provided for by this Act.

12 (D)(1) The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the
13 House of Representatives or the Senate, as the case may be, in an approved bank located in
14 this state selected by the presiding officer of each house. Payment of per diem and mileage,
15 salaries of the members, officers, and employees, and other expenses of the legislature shall
16 be made by individual check, payable to the person or firm entitled thereto, signed by the
17 presiding officer of the House of Representatives as to disbursements by the House, and as
18 to disbursements by the Senate, signed by the president of the Senate. Facsimile or
19 electronic signatures may be used; such payment also may be made by electronic funds
20 transfer through the automated clearing house and deposited into the account of the person
21 or firm entitled to such payment.

22 (2) Copies of legislative documents of the Senate and the House shall be provided
23 at fees according to policy and schedules adopted by the secretary of the Senate and clerk
24 of the House, jointly, and approved by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the
25 House, jointly. Funds derived from the sale of legislative documents of the Senate and the
26 House during legislative sessions shall be used to offset the cost of printing the journals and
27 calendars.

1 (3) The legislature is hereby expressly authorized to receive and expend any monies
2 received as a result of any grants or donations or other forms of assistance as provided for
3 in Article VII, Section 9(A)(1) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

4 (E) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the two houses, any portion of the
5 funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations and any self-
6 generated revenues that are not required for the expenses of the 2021 Regular Session of the
7 Legislature, including printing and all expenses in connection therewith, are hereby
8 appropriated and may be used to pay the mileage, per diem, expenses of committees, and any
9 other expenses of the legislature during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; however, all funds
10 remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general fund on
11 or before October 1, 2022.

12 Section 3.(A) The sum of Ten Million Four Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Seven
13 Hundred Eight and No/100 (\$10,483,708.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total
14 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the legislative
15 auditor, to pay the expenses of his office, including the salaries and expenses of his
16 employees, the costs of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by that office in
17 connection with the operation thereof during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

18 (B)(1) The sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and No/100 (\$350,000.00) Dollars
19 is hereby appropriated, payable from the state general fund, to establish an agency working
20 capital fund to be known as the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund. Of the funds
21 available in the ancillary enterprise fund, the sum of Twenty-Three Million Eight Hundred
22 Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred forty-five and No/100 (\$23,824,945.00) Dollars is
23 authorized to be used by the legislative auditor, in addition to the amount allocated in
24 Section 3.(A) hereof, to pay the expenses of his office, including the salaries and expenses
25 of his employees, the costs of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by that office in
26 connection with the operations thereof during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

27 (2) The legislative auditor, in addition to the authority contained in R.S. 24:517.1,
28 shall be authorized to receive reimbursement of actual expenses of audits performed on
29 federally funded programs, both direct and indirect, and regulatory boards funded primarily

1 from fees and self-generated revenues and self-supported enterprise functions for the
2 purpose of generating revenue to pay expenses as provided in Section 3.(B)(1) of this Act.
3 Reimbursement for audits performed on federally funded programs shall be limited to
4 reimbursement authorized by federal laws and regulations.

5 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, including the General
6 Appropriation Act, in addition to the authority contained in R.S. 24:517.1 and 517.3, the
7 legislative auditor is authorized to allocate and collect from each auditee included in the
8 state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, exclusive of those auditees audited by
9 independent certified public accountants, such amounts as may be reasonably necessary to
10 compensate the legislative auditor for services rendered and costs incurred in connection
11 with the audit of each auditee. In the collection of such amounts, the legislative auditor
12 shall, on or after the first day of July of each year, notify and warrant, without any other
13 approval, the state treasurer of the amount allocated to each auditee. The state treasurer,
14 upon receipt of said notice and warrant, shall transfer forthwith the amounts allocated to
15 each auditee from monies accruing or available to the auditee to the Legislative Auditor
16 Ancillary Enterprise Fund. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the sum of all amounts allocated
17 to all such auditees shall not exceed the amount appropriated to the legislative auditor from
18 the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund in accordance with Section 3.(B)(1)
19 herein.

20 (C) In the conduct of such functions all receipts of self-generated revenues shall be
21 deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise
22 Fund and disbursements made by the state treasurer to the extent of the amounts deposited
23 to the credit of such fund in accordance with provisions of law governing expenditures. All
24 monies from self-generated revenue of the legislative auditor's office shall be paid to the
25 Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund and shall be deemed to be available for
26 expenditure in the amount herein appropriated, and any increase in self-generated revenue
27 over the amount herein appropriated shall be available for expenditure by the legislative
28 auditor only on approval by the co-chairmen of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

1 (D) The legislative auditor shall warrant on the state treasurer for the monies
2 allocated by this Section, and the warrant shall be paid by the state treasurer out of the state
3 general fund. The funds so drawn shall be disbursed only in accordance with budgeted
4 amounts provided herein and such amendments as may be approved by the Legislative
5 Budgetary Control Council.

6 (E) In addition to any portion of the funds herein allocated in this Section to the
7 legislative auditor, any portion of the funds previously appropriated to the legislative auditor,
8 and all other revenue and funds of the legislative auditor, or interest earnings, are hereby
9 appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the legislative auditor. These funds
10 shall be subject to warrant by the legislative auditor on the state treasurer, in an amount not
11 to exceed the total balance remaining at the end of the previous fiscal year; however, all
12 funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general
13 fund on or before October 1, 2022.

14 Section 4.(A) The sum of Three Million One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Eight
15 Hundred Forty-Nine and No/100 (\$3,158,849.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total
16 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the Joint
17 Legislative Committee on the Budget, to be used solely for the operations of the Legislative
18 Fiscal Office and in particular to pay the expenses thereof, including the salaries and
19 expenses of its employees, the cost of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by said
20 office in connection with the operation thereof during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. The
21 operations and functions of the Legislative Fiscal Office shall be under the direction and
22 supervision of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Any contracts for consultant
23 services shall be approved by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council and the Joint
24 Legislative Committee on the Budget.

25 (B) The legislative fiscal officer shall warrant on the state treasurer for the allocation
26 provided by this Section, and the warrant shall be paid by the state treasurer out of the state
27 general fund. The funds so drawn shall be disbursed only in accordance with a budget
28 approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the Legislative Budgetary
29 Control Council.

1 (C) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Legislative Fiscal Office, any
2 portion of the funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations and
3 any self-generated revenues that are not required for the expenses of the 2021 Regular
4 Session of the Legislature, including printing and all expenses in connection therewith, are
5 hereby appropriated and may be used to pay expenses of the Legislative Fiscal Office during
6 the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered
7 shall be returnable to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2022.

8 Section 5.(A) The sum of One Million One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Four
9 Hundred One and No/100 (\$1,131,401.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total
10 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the Louisiana State
11 Law Institute, to pay the expenses thereof, including the salaries and expenses of its
12 employees, the cost of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by said office in
13 connection with the operation thereof during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

14 (B) The executive director of the Louisiana State Law Institute shall warrant on the
15 state treasurer for the allocation provided by this Section, and the warrant shall be paid by
16 the state treasurer out of the state general fund. The funds so drawn shall be disbursed only
17 in accordance with a budget approved by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council and
18 subject to the budgetary control of said council.

19 (C) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Louisiana State Law Institute,
20 any portion of the funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations
21 and any self-generated revenues may be used to pay expenses of the Louisiana State Law
22 Institute during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or
23 unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2022.

24 Section 6.(A) The sum of Eight Million Five Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand One
25 Hundred Twenty-Five and No/100 (\$8,557,125.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the
26 total appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act and the balance
27 on July 2, 2021 of the fund created pursuant to Section 13 of Act 513 of the 2008 Regular
28 Session is hereby appropriated to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, all of which
29 may be used to pay the expenses thereof, including salaries and expenses of certain

1 legislative employees, expenses of the Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library, the David R.
2 Poynter Legislative Research Library, contracts for professional services, mileage and per
3 diem expenses of the interim activities of joint legislative committees created by statute or
4 by the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives to which no specific
5 allocation of funds is made in this Act, as approved by the council or, jointly, by the co-
6 chairmen of the council, the cost of construction, maintenance, repair, improvements,
7 renovations, and access to the capitol building, capitol annex building, building for
8 legislative use, pentagon courts, and arsenal building, and adjacent grounds, and purchase,
9 maintenance, and repair of furniture and equipment, audio-visual systems, security systems,
10 information networks, technological enhancements, technical support, and computer
11 equipment and services, as jointly approved by the president of the Senate and the speaker
12 of the House of Representatives, the cost of equipment, dues to legislative associations, to
13 pay costs to maintain actuarial integrity of the state retirement system affected by the
14 inclusion of certain legislative employees, and all other expenses incurred by said council
15 in connection with the operation thereof during the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

16 (B) The co-chairmen of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council shall jointly
17 warrant on the state treasurer for the monies appropriated and allocated by this Section, and
18 the state treasurer shall pay their warrants by preference over all other warrants, except
19 warrants for the salaries of constitutional officers of the state, which shall be concurrent with
20 warrants provided for by this Act.

21 (C) The funds drawn as provided herein shall be deposited in the name of the
22 Legislative Budgetary Control Council in an approved bank located in this state selected by
23 the presiding co-chairmen of the council. Payment of per diem and mileage, salaries of the
24 officers and employees, and other expenses of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council
25 shall be made by individual check, payable to the person or firm entitled thereto, signed by
26 the presiding co-chairmen of the council. Facsimile or electronic signatures may be used;
27 such payment also may be made by electronic funds transfer through the automated clearing
28 house and deposited into the account of the person or firm entitled to such payment.

1 (D) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Legislative Budgetary Control
 2 Council, any portion of the funds previously appropriated, or interest earnings on any such
 3 appropriations, and self-generated revenues are hereby appropriated and may be used to pay
 4 any expenses of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council during the 2021-2022 Fiscal
 5 Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable
 6 to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2022.

7 Section 7. In accordance with R.S. 39:51(D), a comparative statement of the existing
 8 operating budget for FY 2020-2021 and the appropriation for FY 2021-2022 from the state
 9 general fund is as follows:

10 Entity	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
	11 (Act 8 of 2020 1 st E.S.)	
12 House of Representatives	\$28,998,300	\$28,998,300
13 Senate	\$21,764,498	\$21,764,498
14 Legislative Auditor	\$10,483,708	\$10,483,708
15 Legislative Fiscal Office	\$3,158,849	\$3,158,849
16 La. State Law Institute	\$1,131,401	\$1,131,401
17 Legislative Budgetary		
18 Control Council	\$8,557,125	\$8,557,125
19 Total state general fund	\$74,093,881	\$74,093,881

20 The Legislative Auditor for FY 2020-2021 was appropriated self-generated funds in
 21 the amount of \$23,525,043 and for FY 2021-2022 is appropriated self-generated funds in the
 22 amount of \$23,824,945. The Legislative Budgetary Control Council for FY 2020-2021 was
 23 appropriated the balance of the technology fund on July 2, 2020 and for FY 2021-2022 is
 24 appropriated the balance on July 2, 2021 of said fund. The FY 2020-2021 appropriations for
 25 the Legislature and the legislative service agencies from the State General Fund (Direct)
 26 were reduced by \$12,851,010 and the allocation of said reduction was implemented pursuant
 27 to a plan adopted by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

