AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 24:31.4(A), relative to the office expense allowance for members of the legislature; to provide for the amount of the allowance under certain circumstances; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 24:31.4(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§31.4. Members' office allowance

A.(1) In addition to the salary, per diem, and all other allowances provided by law for members of the legislature, each member of the legislature shall be paid a monthly expense allowance in the amount of five hundred dollars 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.

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

* * * *

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

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored
are additions.