

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 843

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES: Makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for
Fiscal Year 2024-2025

1 AN ACT

2 To appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 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 Eighty-Nine Million Three Hundred Twenty-One
10 Thousand Three Hundred Twelve and No/100 (\$89,321,312.00) Dollars, or so much thereof
11 as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the state general fund, the sum of
12 Twenty-Four Million Seven Hundred Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Five and No/100
13 (\$24,709,985.00) Dollars is hereby appropriated out of self-generated funds, and the sum of
14 Six Million and No/100 (\$6,000,000.00) Dollars is hereby appropriated by statutory
15 dedications out of the Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund to the Legislative
16 Budgetary Control Council to defray the expenses of the legislature, including the House of
17 Representatives and the Senate, the staffs of the House of Representatives and of the Senate,
18 the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative Fiscal Office, the Legislative Budgetary Control
19 Council, and the Louisiana State Law Institute.

20 Section 2.(A)(1) Out of the total amount herein appropriated from the state general
21 fund, Fifty-Seven Million Four Hundred Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven and

1 No/100 (\$57,415,811.00) Dollars is hereby allocated to provide the salary and allowances
2 of members, officers, and staff of the House of Representatives, and the salary and
3 allowances for the speaker of the House of Representatives and for expenses of his office,
4 including reimbursement for actual expenses as presiding officer and for his service to or for
5 the benefit of the House of Representatives, the legislature, the legislative branch of
6 government, or the state, as determined by the speaker, and to provide the salary and
7 allowances of members, officers, and staff of the Senate, and the salary and allowances for
8 the president of the Senate and for expenses of his office, including reimbursement for actual
9 expenses as presiding officer and for his service to or for the benefit of the Senate, the
10 legislature, the legislative branch of government, or the state, as determined by the president
11 of the Senate. These funds shall also be used to pay mileage and per diem of the members
12 of the legislature and mileage and per diem expenses of committees; salaries and/or expense
13 allowances of officers and employees of the legislature; costs of renovations, maintenance,
14 repairs, and necessary additions to the House and/or Senate chambers and other legislative
15 rooms; audio-visual systems, information networks, technological enhancements, and
16 technical support; printing the bills, journals, and calendars; computer equipment and
17 services; library services; provision of accessibility services for persons with disabilities
18 during sessions of the legislature and during the interim; and for all other expenses of the
19 legislature. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any and all monies
20 paid to an employee of the legislature shall be used to determine full-time status and for the
21 eligibility and calculation of all benefits, including but not limited to, retirement and
22 insurance. This provision shall be remedial in nature and shall not eliminate or reduce any
23 current benefits of a legislative employee. In addition to the amounts and limitations
24 provided in R.S. 24:31.5, these funds shall also be used to provide an additional two hundred
25 seventy-five dollars per month to the total amount available to each legislator for the salary
26 of his legislative assistants which shall be obtained and disbursed as hereinafter provided.

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

1 (B) Of the sum above allocated to the two houses of the legislature, Thirty Million
2 Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Three Hundred and No/100 (\$30,998,300.00) Dollars
3 is hereby set aside and allocated for the use of the House of Representatives and Twenty-Six
4 Million Four Hundred Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Eleven and No/100
5 (\$26,417,511.00) 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.

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

1 (E) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the two houses, any portion of the
2 funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations and any self-
3 generated revenues that are not required for the expenses of the 2024 Regular Session of the
4 Legislature, including printing and all expenses in connection therewith, are hereby
5 appropriated and may be used to pay the mileage, per diem, expenses of committees, and any
6 other expenses of the legislature during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year; however, all funds
7 remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general fund on
8 or before October 1, 2025.

9 Section 3.(A) The sum of Fifteen Million Two Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand and
10 No/100 (\$15,295,000.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total appropriation from the
11 state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the legislative auditor, to pay the expenses
12 of his office, including the salaries and expenses of his employees, the costs of equipment,
13 and all other expenses incurred by that office in connection with the operation thereof during
14 the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

15 (B)(1) The sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand and No/100 (\$350,000.00) Dollars
16 is hereby appropriated, payable from the state general fund, to establish an agency working
17 capital fund to be known as the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund. Of the funds
18 available in the ancillary enterprise fund, the sum of Twenty-Four Million Seven Hundred
19 Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Five and No/100 (\$24,709,985.00) Dollars is
20 authorized to be used by the legislative auditor, in addition to the amount allocated in
21 Section 3.(A) hereof, to pay the expenses of his office, including the salaries and expenses
22 of his employees, the costs of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by that office in
23 connection with the operations thereof during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

24 (2) The legislative auditor, in addition to the authority contained in R.S. 24:517.1,
25 shall be authorized to receive reimbursement of actual expenses of audits performed on
26 federally funded programs, both direct and indirect, and regulatory boards funded primarily
27 from fees and self-generated revenues and self-supported enterprise functions for the
28 purpose of generating revenue to pay expenses as provided in Section 3.(B)(1) of this Act.
29 Reimbursement for audits performed on federally funded programs shall be limited to
30 reimbursement authorized by federal laws and regulations.

1 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, including the General
2 Appropriation Act, in addition to the authority contained in R.S. 24:517.1 and 517.3, the
3 legislative auditor is authorized to allocate and collect from each auditee included in the
4 annual comprehensive financial report required pursuant to R.S. 39:80, exclusive of those
5 auditees audited by independent certified public accountants, such amounts as may be
6 reasonably necessary to compensate the legislative auditor for services rendered and costs
7 incurred in connection with the audit of each auditee. In the collection of such amounts, the
8 legislative auditor shall, on or after the first day of July of each year, notify and warrant,
9 without any other approval, the state treasurer of the amount allocated to each auditee. The
10 state treasurer, upon receipt of said notice and warrant, shall transfer forthwith the amounts
11 allocated to each auditee from monies accruing or available to the auditee to the Legislative
12 Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the sum of all amounts
13 allocated to all such auditees shall not exceed the amount appropriated to the legislative
14 auditor from the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund in accordance with Section
15 3.(B)(1) herein.

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

25 (D) The legislative auditor shall warrant on the state treasurer for the monies
26 allocated 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 budgeted
28 amounts provided herein and such amendments as may be approved by the Legislative
29 Budgetary Control Council.

1 (E) In addition to any portion of the funds herein allocated in this Section to the
2 legislative auditor, any portion of the funds previously appropriated to the legislative auditor,
3 and all other revenue and funds of the legislative auditor, or interest earnings, are hereby
4 appropriated and may be used to defray the expenses of the legislative auditor. These funds
5 shall be subject to warrant by the legislative auditor on the state treasurer, in an amount not
6 to exceed the total balance remaining at the end of the previous fiscal year; however, all
7 funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general
8 fund on or before October 1, 2025.

9 Section 4.(A) The sum of Three Million Four Hundred Forty-One Thousand Six
10 Hundred and No/100 (\$3,441,600.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total
11 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the Joint
12 Legislative Committee on the Budget, to be used solely for the operations of the Legislative
13 Fiscal Office and in particular to pay the expenses thereof, including the salaries and
14 expenses of its employees, the cost of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by said
15 office in connection with the operation thereof during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. The
16 operations and functions of the Legislative Fiscal Office shall be under the direction and
17 supervision of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Any contracts for consultant
18 services shall be approved by the Legislative Budgetary Control Council and the Joint
19 Legislative Committee on the Budget.

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

25 (C) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Legislative Fiscal Office, any
26 portion of the funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations and
27 any self-generated revenues that are not required for the expenses of the 2024 Regular
28 Session of the Legislature, including printing and all expenses in connection therewith, are
29 hereby appropriated and may be used to pay expenses of the Legislative Fiscal Office during

1 the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered
2 shall be returnable to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2025.

3 Section 5.(A) The sum of One Million One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Nine
4 Hundred One and No/100 (\$1,198,901.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total
5 appropriation from the state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act to the Louisiana State
6 Law Institute, to pay the expenses thereof, including the salaries and expenses of its
7 employees, the cost of equipment, and all other expenses incurred by said office in
8 connection with the operation thereof during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

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

14 (C) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Louisiana State Law Institute,
15 any portion of the funds previously appropriated or interest earnings on such appropriations
16 and any self-generated revenues may be used to pay expenses of the Louisiana State Law
17 Institute during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or
18 unencumbered shall be returnable to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2025.

19 Section 6.(A) The sum of Eleven Million Nine Hundred Seventy Thousand and
20 No/100 (\$11,970,000.00) Dollars is hereby allocated out of the total appropriation from the
21 state general fund made in Section 1 of this Act and the balance on July 2, 2024, of the fund
22 created pursuant to Section 13 of Act 513 of the 2008 Regular Session is hereby
23 appropriated to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council, all of which may be used to pay
24 the expenses thereof, including salaries and expenses of certain legislative employees,
25 expenses of the Huey P. Long Memorial Law Library, the David R. Poynter Legislative
26 Research Library, contracts for professional services, mileage and per diem expenses of the
27 interim activities of joint legislative committees created by statute or by the presiding
28 officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives to which no specific allocation of
29 funds is made in this Act, as approved by the council or, jointly, by the co-chairmen of the
30 council, the cost of construction, maintenance, repair, improvements, renovations, and access

1 to the capitol building, capitol annex building, building for legislative use, pentagon courts,
2 and arsenal building, and adjacent grounds, and purchase, maintenance, and repair of
3 furniture and equipment, audio-visual systems, security systems, information networks,
4 technological enhancements, technical support, and computer equipment and services, as
5 jointly approved by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
6 Representatives, the cost of equipment, dues to legislative associations, to pay costs to
7 maintain actuarial integrity of the state retirement system affected by the inclusion of certain
8 legislative employees, and all other expenses incurred by said council in connection with the
9 operation thereof during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

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

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

23 (D) Any portion of the funds herein allocated to the Legislative Budgetary Control
24 Council, any portion of the funds previously appropriated, or interest earnings on any such
25 appropriations, and self-generated revenues are hereby appropriated and may be used to pay
26 any expenses of the Legislative Budgetary Control Council during the 2024-2025 Fiscal
27 Year; however, all funds remaining unexpended and/or unencumbered shall be returnable
28 to the state general fund on or before October 1, 2025.

29 Section 7. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 24:31(B) to the contrary, the
30 compensation of members of the legislature shall be equal to the rate allowable for per diem

House of Representatives	\$30,998,300
Senate	\$26,417,511
Legislative Auditor	\$15,295,000
Legislative Fiscal Office	\$ 3,441,600
Louisiana State Law Institute	\$ 1,198,901
Legislative Budgetary Control Council	<u>\$11,970,000</u>
 Total state general fund	 <u><u>\$89,321,312</u></u>

Provides for the allocation of funds for salaries and allowances of members, officers, and staff of the House and Senate. Provides the balance on July 2, 2024, of the fund created by Act 513, §13 of 2008 RS is appropriated to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

Appropriates \$350,000 from the state general fund to establish the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund as an agency working capital fund; appropriates \$24,709,985 from the fund, which is authorized to be used for expenses of the auditor's office.

Appropriates \$6,000,000 out of the statutorily dedicated Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund to the Legislative Budgetary Control Council.

Provides for the rate allowable for per diem deduction for members of the legislature during their attendance at the state capitol.

Retains provisions of existing law allowing legislative assistants who were employed on or before Dec. 1, 2007, to retain the salary they were earning on Dec. 1, 2007.

Effective July 1, 2024.