

Regular Session, 2008

SENATE BILL NO. 672

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

LEGISLATORS. Provides for a pay raise for legislators. (7/1/08)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 24:31, 31.1(A) and (E), 502(A), 504(B), 506(A), and 507(B), relative to compensation of members of the legislature and per diem; to provide for per diem during regular and extraordinary sessions; to provide for an increase in the compensation paid to legislators; to provide for an increase in compensation paid to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate; to provide for an increase in the compensation paid to the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate; to provide for an increase in compensation paid to the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 24:31, 31.1(A) and (E), 502(A), 504(B), 506(A), and 507(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§31. Compensation of members

The compensation of the members of the legislature shall be equal to the rate

allowable for per diem deduction under Section 162(h)(1)(B)(ii) of Title 26 of the United States Code for the location of the state capital during their attendance on that body. **This per diem shall apply only to service rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature.**

§31.1. Salary for members; expense allowance; mileage allowance

A.**(1)** In addition to the per diem and all other allowances provided by law for members of the Legislature of Louisiana, each member of the legislature, except the president and the president pro tempore of the Senate, **the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee,** and the speaker and the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, **the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee,** shall be paid a salary in the full sum of ~~sixteen thousand eight hundred dollars per annum~~ **thirty percent of the annual salary for members of the United States Congress. Such salary shall be adjusted as necessary effective July first annually. This salary shall be compensation for service to the House of Representatives or the Senate, as appropriate, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the interim between sessions.**

**(2) The salary of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee shall be thirty-five percent of the annual salary for members of the United States Congress. Such salary shall be adjusted as necessary effective July first annually. This salary shall be compensation to the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee for service to the Senate, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the interim between**

1 sessions. The salary provided for in this Paragraph shall be payable in the same  
2 manner as provided in R.S. 24:31.1(B). The chairmen of the Senate Finance  
3 Committee and the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee shall be  
4 entitled to the per diem and all other allowances provided by law for members  
5 of the Legislature of Louisiana.

6 \* \* \*

7 E. In addition to the salary, compensation, and all other allowances provided  
8 by law for members of the legislature, each member of the legislature shall be paid  
9 a monthly expense allowance, as referred to in R.S. 11:403(10), in the amount of ~~five~~  
10 ~~hundred~~ **one thousand** dollars per month for expenses in connection with the  
11 holding or conduct of their office. Warrants for the payment of such allowance shall  
12 be in accordance with, and subject to, Subsection B.

13 \* \* \*

14 §502. Speaker of the House of Representatives; salary; expenses

15 A. The **annual** salary of the speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
16 be ~~thirty-two thousand dollars per annum~~ **forty-five percent of the annual salary**  
17 **for members of the United States Congress**, such salary to be payable monthly on  
18 his own warrant and drawn on the general fund of the state. ~~This~~ **Such salary shall**  
19 **be adjusted as necessary effective July first annually. Subject to Subsection B,**  
20 **this** salary shall be compensation to the speaker for service to the House of  
21 Representatives, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions  
22 of the legislature and during the interim between sessions.

23 \* \* \*

24 §504. Speaker pro tempore; assumption of duties of speaker; salary

25 A. \* \* \*

26 B. The **annual** salary of the speaker pro tempore of the House of  
27 Representatives shall be ~~twenty-four thousand five hundred dollars per annum~~  
28 **thirty-five percent of the annual salary for members of the United States**  
29 **Congress. Such salary shall be adjusted as necessary effective July first**

1 **annually**. This salary shall be compensation to the speaker pro tempore for service  
2 to the House of Representatives, including that rendered during regular and  
3 extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the interim between sessions.  
4 The salary provided for in this Section shall be payable in the same manner as  
5 provided in R.S. 24:31.1(B). The speaker pro tempore shall be entitled to the per  
6 diem and all other allowances provided by law for members of the Legislature of  
7 Louisiana.

8 \* \* \*

9 §506. President of the Senate; salary; expenses

10 A. The **annual** salary of the president of the Senate shall be ~~thirty-two~~  
11 ~~thousand dollars per annum~~ **forty-five percent of the annual salary for members**  
12 **of the United States Congress**, such salary to be payable monthly on his own  
13 warrant and drawn on the general fund of the state. ~~This~~ **Such salary shall be**  
14 **adjusted as necessary effective July first annually. Subject to Subsection B, this**  
15 salary shall be compensation to the president for service to the Senate, including that  
16 rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the  
17 interim between sessions.

18 \* \* \*

19 §507. President pro tempore; assumption of duties of president; salary

20 A. \* \* \*

21 B. The **annual** salary of the president pro tempore of the Senate shall be  
22 ~~twenty-four thousand five hundred dollars per annum~~ **thirty-five percent of the**  
23 **annual salary for members of the United States Congress. Such salary shall be**  
24 **adjusted as necessary effective July first annually.** This salary shall be  
25 compensation to the president pro tempore for service to the Senate, including that  
26 rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the  
27 interim between sessions. The salary provided for in this Section shall be payable  
28 in the same manner as provided in R.S. 24:31.1(B). The president pro tempore shall  
29 be entitled to the per diem and all other allowances provided by law for members of

1 the Legislature of Louisiana.

2 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2008.

---

The original instrument was prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jay Lueckel.

---

#### DIGEST

Duplessis (SB 672)

Present law provides that legislators shall be paid a per diem equal to the rate allowable for per diem deduction under the Federal Tax Code for the location of the state capital during their attendance. Proposed law retains present law but provides that this per diem shall only be paid during regular and special sessions, and not during the interim.

Present law provides that in addition to the per diem and all other allowances, members of the legislature shall be paid an annual salary of \$16,800.

Proposed law revises the salary of members of the legislature, as follows:

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall be paid 45% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House shall be paid 35% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress.

The salary of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee shall be 35% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress. The chairmen of Senate Finance and Revenue and Fiscal Affairs shall be entitled to per diem and other allowances provided by law for members of the legislature.

All other members of the legislature shall be paid 30% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress.

All salaries shall be adjusted as necessary effective July 1 annually.

Present law provides that in addition to a salary and other allowances, a legislator shall be paid a monthly expense allowance for expenses in connection with holding or conducting their office in the amount of \$500 per month.

Proposed law increases the monthly expense allowance to \$1,000 for each member.

Effective July 1, 2008.

(Amends R.S. 24:31, 31.1(A) and (E), 502(A), 504(B), 506(A), and 507(B))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill.

1. Revises salary of membership of the legislature, as follows:

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall be paid 45% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House shall be paid 35% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress.

The salary of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee shall be 35% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress. The chairmen of Senate Finance and Revenue and Fiscal Affairs shall be entitled to per diem and other allowances provided by law for members of the legislature.

All other members of the legislature shall be paid 30% of the annual salary for members of the U.S. Congress.

All salaries shall be adjusted as necessary effective July 1 annually.

2. Increases each member's monthly expense allowance from \$500 per month to \$1,000 per month.
3. Makes effective July 1, 2008.