

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1368**

Introduced by

Representatives Keiser, Kasper

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-03-20 and 54-35-10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to legislative compensation; to repeal sections 54-03-19.1 and  
3 54-03-19.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the legislative compensation  
4 commission; to provide an effective date; and to declare an emergency.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-03-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **54-03-20. Compensation and expense reimbursement of members of the legislative**  
9 **assembly.**

- 10 1. ~~Each~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, each member of the legislative  
11 assembly is entitled to receive as compensation for services the sum of one hundred  
12 forty-eight dollars for each calendar day during any organizational, special, or regular  
13 legislative session and for each day that member attends a meeting of a legislative  
14 committee between the organizational session and the regular session as authorized  
15 by legislative rule.
- 16 2. a. Each member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive reimbursement for  
17 lodging, which may not exceed per calendar month the amount established under  
18 this subdivision by the director of the office of management and budget for  
19 lodging in state and which may not exceed the rate provided in section 44-08-04  
20 for each calendar day during the period of any organizational, special, or regular  
21 session. On August first of each even-numbered year, the director of the office of  
22 management and budget shall set the maximum monthly reimbursement for the  
23 subsequent two-year period at an amount equal to thirty times fifty-five percent of

the daily lodging reimbursement in effect on that date as provided under  
subdivision d of subsection 2 of section 44-08-04.

b. Notwithstanding subdivision a:

(1) A member of the legislative assembly may elect to be reimbursed for less  
than the amount to which the legislator is entitled under this subsection by  
claiming the lesser amount on a voucher submitted with the receipt required  
by section 44-08-04.

(2) The legislative management may establish guidelines that may result in a  
reduced maximum reimbursement for a single dwelling in which two or more  
legislators share lodging and the total rent for that dwelling exceeds the  
amount to which a legislator is entitled under subdivision a.

3. a. Members of the legislative assembly who receive reimbursement for lodging are  
also entitled to reimbursement for travel for not to exceed one round trip taken  
during any calendar week, or portion of a week, the legislative assembly is in  
session, between their residences and the place of meeting of the legislative  
assembly, at the rate provided for state employees with the additional limitation  
that reimbursement for travel by common carrier may be only at the cost of coach  
fare and may not exceed one and one-half times the amount the member would  
be entitled to receive as mileage reimbursement for travel by motor vehicle.

b. A member of the legislative assembly who does not receive reimbursement for  
lodging and whose place of residence in the legislative district that the member  
represents is not within the city of Bismarck is entitled to reimbursement at the  
rate provided for state employees for necessary travel for not to exceed one  
round trip taken per day between the residence and the place of meeting of the  
legislative assembly when it is in session and may receive reimbursement for  
lodging at the place of meeting of the legislative assembly as provided in section  
44-08-04 for each calendar day for which round trip travel reimbursement is not  
claimed, provided that the total reimbursement may not exceed the maximum  
monthly reimbursement allowed under subdivision a of subsection 2.

- 1       4.   The amount to which each legislator is entitled must be paid following the  
2           organizational session in December and following each month during a regular or  
3           special session.
- 4       5.   If during a special session, the legislative assembly adjourns for more than three days,  
5           a member of the legislative assembly is entitled to receive compensation during those  
6           days only while in attendance at a standing committee if the legislator is a member of  
7           that committee, a majority or minority leader, or a legislator who is not on that  
8           committee but who has the approval of a majority or minority leader to attend.
- 9       6.   A day, or portion of a day, spent in traveling to or returning from an organizational,  
10          special, or regular session or a legislative committee meeting must be included as a  
11          calendar day during a legislative session or as a day of a legislative committee  
12          meeting for the purposes of this section.
- 13      7.   a.   In addition, each member is entitled to receive during the term for which the  
14           member was elected, as compensation for the execution of public duties during  
15           the biennium, the sum of four hundred fifteen dollars a month, plus any  
16           applicable adjustment under subsection 8, paid monthly.
- 17          b.   If a member dies or resigns from office during the member's term, the member  
18           may be paid only the allowances provided for in this section for the period for  
19           which the member was actually a member.
- 20          c.   The majority and minority leaders of the house and senate and the chairman of  
21           the legislative management, if the chairman is not a majority or minority leader,  
22           are each entitled to receive as compensation, in addition to any other  
23           compensation or expense reimbursement provided by law, the sum of two  
24           hundred ninety-eight dollars per month, plus any applicable adjustment under  
25           subsection 8, during the biennium for their execution of public duties.
- 26      8.   Subject to legislative appropriations, the compensation provided for members of the  
27           legislative assembly under subsections 1 and 7 must be adjusted at the same time  
28           and at one-half the ~~same~~ rate as any general percentage adjustment in compensation  
29           for permanent state employees which is approved by the legislative assembly.
- 30      9.   Attendance at any organizational, special, or regular session of the legislative  
31           assembly by any member is a conclusive presumption of entitlement as set out in this

section and compensation and expense allowances must be excluded from gross income for income tax purposes to the extent permitted for federal income tax purposes under section 127 of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 [Pub. L. 97-34; 95 Stat. 202; 26 U.S.C. 162(i)].

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-35-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**54-35-10. Compensation of members and leadership.**

1. The members of the legislative management and the members of any committee of the legislative management are entitled to be compensated for the time spent in attendance at sessions of the legislative management and of its committees at the ~~rate of one hundred forty-eight dollars per day~~ rate provided for legislative session compensation under section 54-03-20 and must also be paid for expenses incurred in attending said meetings and in the performance of their official duties in the amounts provided by law for other state officers.
2. In addition to the compensation provided in subsection 1, the chairman of the legislative management is entitled to receive an additional five dollars for each day spent in attendance at sessions of the legislative management and of its committees, and the chairman of each of the legislative management's committees is entitled to receive five dollars for each day spent in attendance at sessions of the legislative management or of the committee which the person chairs.

**SECTION 3. REPEAL.** Sections 54-03-19.1 and 54-03-19.2 of the North Dakota Century Code are repealed.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

**SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.