

**SENATE BILL NO. 2056
with House Amendments**

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2056

Introduced by

Senators C. Nelson, DeMers, Goetz

Representatives Aarsvold, Maragos, Nottestad

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-03-20 and subsection 1 of section 54-06-09
2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to expense reimbursement for members of the
3 legislative assembly and mileage and travel expense of state officers and employees; to
4 provide for retroactive application; 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 1995 Supplement to the North
7 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **54-03-20. Compensation and expense reimbursement of members of the**
9 **legislative assembly.** Each member of the legislative assembly of the state of North Dakota is
10 entitled to receive as compensation for services the sum of ninety dollars for each calendar day
11 during any organizational, special, or regular legislative session. Each member of the
12 legislative assembly is entitled to receive reimbursement for lodging, which may not exceed a
13 maximum of six hundred dollars per calendar month for lodging in state, at the rates and in the
14 manner provided in section 44-08-04 for each calendar day during the period of any
15 organizational, special, or regular session. Members of the legislative assembly who receive
16 reimbursement for lodging are also entitled to reimbursement for travel for not to exceed one
17 round trip taken during any calendar week, or portion of a week, the legislative assembly is in
18 session, between their residences and the place of meeting of the legislative assembly, at the
19 rate provided for state employees with the additional limitation that reimbursement for travel by
20 common carrier may be only at the cost of coach fare and may not exceed thirty-five cents per
21 mile based upon air one and one-half times the amount the member would be entitled to
22 receive as mileage reimbursement for travel by motor vehicle. A member of the legislative
23 assembly who does not receive reimbursement for lodging and whose place of residence in the
24 legislative district that the member represents is not within the city of Bismarck is entitled to

1 reimbursement at the rate provided for state employees for necessary travel for not to exceed
2 one round trip taken per day between the residence and the place of meeting of the legislative
3 assembly when it is in session and may receive reimbursement for lodging at the place of
4 meeting of the legislative assembly as provided in section 44-08-04 for each calendar day for
5 which round trip travel reimbursement is not claimed, provided that the total reimbursement
6 may not exceed six hundred dollars per month. The amount to which each legislator is entitled
7 must be paid following the organizational session in December and following each month
8 during a regular or special session.

9 A day, or portion of a day, spent in traveling to or returning from an organizational,
10 special, or regular session must be included as a calendar day during a legislative session for
11 the purposes of this section.

12 In addition, each member is entitled to receive during the term for which the member
13 was elected, as compensation for the execution of public duties during the biennium, the sum
14 of one hundred eighty dollars a month, which is payable every six months. If a member dies or
15 resigns from office during the member's term, the member may be paid only the allowances
16 provided for in this section for the period for which the member was actually a member.

17 Attendance at any organizational, special, or regular session of the legislative assembly
18 by any member is a conclusive presumption of entitlement as set out in this section and
19 compensation and expense allowances must be excluded from gross income for income tax
20 purposes to the extent permitted for federal income tax purposes under section 127 of the
21 Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 [Pub. L. 97-34; 95 Stat. 202; 26 U.S.C. 162(i)].

22 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 54-06-09 of the 1995
23 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 24 1. The sum of twenty-five cents per mile [1.61 kilometers] for each mile [1.61
25 kilometers] actually and necessarily traveled in the performance of official duty
26 when ~~such~~ the travel is by motor vehicle or twenty-seven cents per mile [1.61
27 kilometers] if the travel is by truck, the use of which is required by the employing
28 ~~subdivision, agency, bureau, board, or commission~~ entity. The sum of thirty-five
29 cents per mile [1.61 kilometers] for each mile [1.61 kilometers] actually and
30 necessarily traveled in the performance of official duty when ~~such~~ the travel is by
31 private airplane. Mileage by private aircraft must be computed by actual air

mileage when only one state employee or official is traveling; if two or more state employees or officials are traveling by private aircraft, the actual mileage must be based on the road mileage between the geographical points. Reimbursement for private airplane travel must be calculated as follows:

- a. If reimbursement is for one properly authorized and reimbursable passenger, reimbursement must be paid on a per-mile basis as provided in this subsection.
- b. If reimbursement is claimed for a chartered private aircraft, reimbursement may not exceed the cost of regular coach fare on a commercial flight, if one is scheduled between the point of departure, point of destination, and return, for each properly authorized and reimbursable passenger on the charter flight; or, where there is no such regularly scheduled commercial flight, the actual cost of the charter.

No reimbursement may be paid for leased private aircraft, except for leased or rented private aircraft from a recognized fixed base aviation operator who is in the business of leasing and renting private aircraft and is located on an airport open for public use. If only one person ~~shall engage~~ engages in such travel in a motor vehicle exceeding at any geographical point one hundred fifty miles [241.40 kilometers] beyond the borders of this state, reimbursement ~~must be~~ is limited to eighteen cents per mile [1.61 kilometers] for the out-of-state portion of the travel beyond the first one hundred fifty miles [241.40 kilometers]. When official travel is by motor vehicle or airplane owned by the state or by any department or political subdivision ~~thereof of the state~~, no allowance may be made or paid for such mileage, except that governmental entities may share expenses when officials or employees of those entities travel in the same motor vehicle or aircraft.

SECTION 3. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION. Section 1 of this Act is retroactive in application to January 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.