

2021 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1424

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1424
2/4/2021

Relating to reimbursement for members of the legislative assembly

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing at 2:51 p.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	A
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

Discussion Topics:

- Reimbursement for legislative assembly members
- Proposing legislative management study

Rep. Kempenich introduced and testified in favor. Brought a proposed amendment, #5528.

Chairman Kasper closed the hearing at 3:02 p.m.

Rep. Magrum moved a **Do Not Pass**. **Rep. Schauer** seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jim Kasper	N
Representative Ben Koppelman	N
Representative Pamela Anderson	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	A
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	A
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	N
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Greg Stemen	N

Representative Steve Vetter	N
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Motion fails 4-8-2.

Chairman Kasper stated this bill would be held until Rep. Louser can return to vote on this bill. 3:09 p.m.

Returned to this bill at 4:29 p.m. Rep Louser did not return for the vote.

B. Koppelman moved to **adopt amendment 21.0849.01002**. **Rep. Schauer** seconded the motion. **Voice vote-motion carries.**

B. Koppelman moved **Do Pass as amended**. **Rep. Schneider** seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Pamela Anderson	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	A
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	A
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	N
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Austen Schauer	N
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion passed 10-2-2. **Rep. Stemen** is the carrier.

Additional written testimony: #5322

Chairman Kasper closed at 4:32 p.m.

Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk

JK
2/4/21

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding compensation and expense reimbursement of members of the legislative assembly.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. During the 2021-22 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying compensation and expense reimbursement for members of the legislative assembly, including consideration of providing meal expense reimbursement during legislative sessions. The study must include a review of legislative compensation and expense reimbursement policies of other states. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-eighth legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1424: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (10 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1424 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act to provide for a legislative management study regarding compensation and expense reimbursement of members of the legislative assembly.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

During the 2021-22 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying compensation and expense reimbursement for members of the legislative assembly, including consideration of providing meal expense reimbursement during legislative sessions. The study must include a review of legislative compensation and expense reimbursement policies of other states. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-eighth legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

21.0849.01002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Kempenich
January 27, 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY. During the 2021-22 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying compensation and expense reimbursement for members of the legislative assembly, including consideration of providing meal expense reimbursement during legislative sessions. The study must include a review of legislative compensation and expense reimbursement policies of other states. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-eighth legislative assembly."

Renumber accordingly

Written Testimony on House Bill 1424

Chairman Kasper and Government and Veteran Affairs Committee Members

My name is Kevin Herrmann from Beulah, ND. I am a lifelong citizen of North Dakota and an hourly wage worker.

I opposed House Bill 1424.

As a hourly wage worker, I am helping paying for your Legislative salary when in session of \$186 a day, monthly salary of \$518, housing allowance during legislative session for most legislators, get pay for interim committee hearings plus mileage and 100% taxpayer funded health insurance (which temporary or part-time workers just get a wage with no health insurance).

House Bill 1424 would have taxpayers pay for meals just because lobbyists cannot provide meals to influence your vote as in the past just because of the Ethics law. I feel the Ethics law does not go far enough. There were over 60 legislators in the 2020 election cycle who receive out of state PAC money. Where is the transparency? It is amazing how the word transparency is used depending on the legislator.

Again, I opposed House Bill 1424.

My home phone number is 701-873-4163.

Kevin Herrmann
300 Fair St. SW
Beulah, ND 58523

2021 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1424

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1424
3/11/2021
10:48 AM

Provide to a legislative management study regarding compensation and expense reimbursement of members of the legislative assembly.

Chair Vedaa opened the hearing at 10:48 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

Discussion Topics:

- Total package of legislative reimbursement
- IRS implications
- Equity creation

Rep Kempenich introduced the bill

Additional written testimony:

Kevin Hermann – opposed - #8604

Adjourned at 11:12 AM

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

Written Testimony on engrossed House Bill 1424

Chairman Veda and Government and Veteran Affairs Committee Members

My name is Kevin Herrmann from Beulah, ND. I am a lifelong citizen of North Dakota and an hourly wage worker.

I opposed engrossed House Bill 1424. Representative Kempenich requested to House Government and Veteran Affairs committee to change the bill to a study which I still oppose.

As a hourly wage worker, I am helping paying for your Legislative salary when in session of \$186 a day, monthly salary of \$518, housing allowance during legislative session for most legislators, pay for interim committee hearings plus mileage and 100% taxpayer funded health insurance (which temporary or part-time workers just get a wage with no health insurance).

House Bill 1424 before the change to a study would have taxpayers pay for meals just because lobbyists cannot provide meals to influence your vote as in the past just because of the Ethics law. I feel the Ethics law does not go far enough. There were over 60 legislators in the 2020 election cycle who receive out of state PAC money. Where is the transparency? It is amazing how the word transparency is used depending on the legislator.

Again, I opposed engrossed House Bill 1424.

My home phone number is 701-873-4163.

Kevin Herrmann
300 Fair St. SW
Beulah, ND 58523

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1424
3/11/2021

Provide for a legislative management study regarding compensation & expense reimbursement of members of the legislative assembly.
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Chair Vedaa called to order at 4:25 PM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Work

Sen K Roers moved a **Do Pass**

Sen Wobbema seconded

Roll Call Vote: 5 -- YES 2 -- NO -0-ab Motion Passed

Senators	Vote
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jay R. Elkin	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Mark F. Webber	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

Sen K Roers will carry the bill.

Adjourned at 4:27 PM

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1424, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Vedaa, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (5 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1424 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.