North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for the Legislative Procedure
and Arrangements Committee
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LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT PROCESS

North Dakota Century Code Section 54-03-20(9) requires the Legislative Management, prior to each regular legislative session, to make recommendations and submit any necessary legislation to adjust legislative compensation amounts.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY

Beginning with the 2011-12 interim, the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee has provided input on legislative compensation amounts to include in the legislative branch appropriation bill.

CURRENT COMPENSATION LEVELS

The following are the current levels of legislative compensation and expense reimbursement:

- Monthly pay - $628.
- Leaders and the Chairman of the Legislative Management additional monthly pay - $450.
- Daily session pay - $226.
- Daily interim meeting pay - $226.
- Session lodging expense - Actual expense not to exceed the rate established by the federal General Services Administration for lodging reimbursement in the state plus applicable state or local taxes per calendar day up to 30 times 75 percent of the state daily lodging expense reimbursement rate per month for legislators who reside outside Bismarck and Mandan (currently $110 plus tax per calendar day up to $2,475 per month).
- Interim lodging expense - Actual expense not to exceed the rate established by the General Services Administration for lodging reimbursement in the state plus applicable state or local taxes (currently $110 plus tax). This reimbursement rate also applies to state employees.
- Mileage expense - Federal mileage reimbursement rate per mile by motor vehicle (currently 76 cents per mile), 18 cents per mile by motor vehicle 300 miles beyond the state border, and 1.5 times the in-state mileage reimbursement rate per mile by private airplane. These reimbursement rates also apply to state employees.
- Interim meals expense - Up to $45 per day in state, the federal per diem meals rate for out of state. This reimbursement rate also applies to state employees.
- Additional daily compensation for leaders and committee chairmen - Ranging from $10 to $20.
- Broadband and mobile data stipend - $200 per month.

POTENTIAL 2027-29 FUNDING AND STATUTORY CHANGES

Since 2007, the Legislative Assembly has changed legislative pay by the same percentage as it did for state employee general salary increases. Also, since 2012, the Legislative Procedure and Arrangements Committee has been recommending legislative pay be adjusted by the same percentage as recommended in the executive budget for state employee salary increases. Since the executive budget recommendation for the percentage change for state employees' salaries will not be known until the executive budget is released in December 2026, determination needs to be made as to what to include in the Legislative Assembly budget request.

Below are three options for consideration for 2027-29 biennium adjustments to legislative compensation. Funding to provide for the selected increases would be included in the Legislative Assembly budget request submitted to the Office of Management and Budget in early November. The related statutory changes will be included in the draft legislative branch appropriation bill submitted for consideration to the Appropriations Committees. No changes are being proposed for travel expense reimbursement levels that apply to legislators as well as state employees.

The following chart shows the potential legislative compensation changes based on 1 percent 1st year and 1 percent 2nd year increases and the estimated cost of these increases for the 2027-29 biennium:

	Current Rate	Rate Effective July 1, 2027	Rate Effective July 1, 2028	Estimated Cost 2027-29 Biennium
Monthly pay	$628	$634	$640	$32,786
Daily session pay	$226	$228	$230	75,286
Interim meeting pay	$226	$228	$230	14,732
Leaders' additional monthly pay	$450	$455	$460	776
Total				$123,580

The following chart shows the potential legislative compensation changes based on 3 percent 1st year and 3 percent 2nd year increases and the estimated cost of these increases for the 2027-29 biennium:

	Current Rate	Rate Effective July 1, 2027	Rate Effective July 1, 2028	Estimated Cost 2027-29 Biennium
Monthly pay	$628	$647	$666	$103,822
Daily session pay	$226	$233	$240	263,501
Interim meeting pay	$226	$233	$240	45,224
Leaders' additional monthly pay	$450	$464	$478	2,171
Total				$414,718

The following chart shows the potential legislative compensation changes based on 4 percent 1st year and 4 percent 2nd year increases and the estimated cost of these increases for the 2027-29 biennium:

	Current Rate	Rate Effective July 1, 2027	Rate Effective July 1, 2028	Estimated Cost 2027-29 Biennium
Monthly pay	$628	$653	$679	$138,429
Daily session pay	$226	$235	$244	338,787
Interim meeting pay	$226	$235	$244	56,760
Leaders' additional monthly pay	$450	$468	$487	2,842
Total				$536,818