STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1327 BY: STEIDLEY

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT; AMENDING 74 O.S. 1981, SECTIONS 500.8, AS LAST AMENDED BY SECTION 56, CHAPTER 264, O.S.L. 1990, 500.9, AS LAST AMENDED BY SECTION 57, CHAPTER 264, O.S.L. 1990, 500.9A, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 58, CHAPTER 264, O.S.L. 1990 AND 500.17, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 59, CHAPTER 264, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTIONS 500.8, 500.9, 500.9A AND 500.17), WHICH RELATE TO THE STATE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT ACT; MODIFYING METHOD OF COMPUTING PER DIEM; AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF PER DIEM UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1981, Section 500.8, as last amended by Section 56, Chapter 264, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 500.8), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.8 A reimbursement for ~~documented~~ meal ~~and incidental~~ expenses, per day, ~~cumulative,~~ while in official travel

status, of not to exceed Nineteen Dollars ($19.00) within the State of Oklahoma and Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) outside the state is authorized. In computing reimbursement for meals ~~and incidentals,~~ a day shall be a period of twenty-four (24) hours. Reimbursement for each one-fourth (1/4) day consisting of six (6) hours or major fraction thereof, more than three (3) hours, may be made at the rate of Four Dollars and seventy-five cents ($4.75) in state and Six Dollars and twenty-five cents ($6.25) out of state. Provided, however, that no reimbursement for meals ~~and incidentals~~ shall be made for periods ~~which do not include overnight status~~ of less than twelve (12) hours in travel status except that one-fourth (1/4) of the per diem allowance may be reimbursed if the period of travel status is at least ten (10) hours and begins prior to 7:00 a.m or extends beyond 7:00 p.m. If meals~~, incidentals~~ and lodging at a meeting, workshop, conference or other object of travel are furnished as a "package plan", reimbursement may be made, based upon a receipt, but at a daily rate of not to exceed the total daily rate provided in this act.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1981, Section 500.9, as last amended by Section 57, Chapter 264, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 500.9), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.9 A. Reimbursement for overnight lodging, while in official travel status, may be made at not to exceed Thirty-five Dollars ($35.00) or the actual cost, if lower, per night within the State of Oklahoma and not to exceed Twenty-eight Dollars ($28.00) or the actual cost, if lower, per night out of state except as provided in subsections B, C and D of this section and Section 500.9A of this title. Receipts issued by the hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall accompany claims for reimbursement.

B. A per diem allowance in lieu of subsistence, may be authorized by a travel claim issued in accordance with Section 500.3 of this title, which shall include all charges for meals and

lodging. Not to exceed Twenty-nine Dollars ($29.00) per diem may be authorized on the travel claim for the performance of travel within the State of Oklahoma, and not to exceed Thirty-five Dollars ($35.00) per diem may be authorized for the performance of travel outside the State of Oklahoma. In computing the per diem allowance, a day shall be a period of twenty-four (24) hours. Reimbursement for each one-fourth (1/4) day consisting of six (6) hours or major fraction thereof, more than three (3) hours, may be made at the rate of Seven Dollars and twenty-five cents ($7.25) in state and Eight Dollars and seventy-five cents ($8.75) out of state. Provided, however, that no per diem shall be allowed pursuant to this section for periods of less than overnight in travel status. Reimbursement for expenses other than meals and lodging may also be made in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

~~B.~~ C. State officers or employees attending meetings, workshops, conferences or other objectives of trips which are conducted at a designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place or where lodging has been arranged for by the blocking of rooms or by rate reductions for the participants by the sponsor as evidenced by the announcement or notice of the meeting, workshop, conference or other objective shall be reimbursed the actual lodging expense not to exceed the single occupancy room rate charged by the designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place, provided that said officials or employees are in official travel status approved by the agency head or his designee. Provided further, those state officers or employees attending meetings, workshops, conferences or other objectives of trips, which are conducted at a designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place as provided by this subsection, who choose to acquire less expensive lodging at another hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall be reimbursed the actual lodging expense not to exceed the single occupancy room rate

charged by the designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place. Provided further, those state officers or employees so choosing this option shall not be reimbursed for local transportation costs incurred traveling between such optional lodging and the designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place. Receipts issued by the hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall accompany claims for reimbursement.

~~C.~~ D. The Legislature recognizes the existence of areas where the reimbursement is not sufficient to pay lodging costs, and wherein a higher lodging reimbursement should be allowed. It is hereby provided that any state officials or employees in official travel status out of the state in one of the designated high rate geographical areas shall be reimbursed their actual lodging expense up to a maximum of Forty-five Dollars ($45.00) per night, except as provided in Section 500.9A of this title. The high rate geographical areas are hereby designated as follows:

Anchorage, AK

Atlanta, GA

Baltimore, MD

Boston, MA including all locations within Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk Counties

Chicago, IL including all locations within Lake and Cook Counties

Dallas and Fort Worth, TX including all locations within Dallas and Tarrant Counties

Denver, CO including all locations within Denver, Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties

Detroit, MI

Honolulu, HI

Houston, TX including all locations within the corporate limits of Houston

Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS

Los Angeles, CA including all locations within Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties

Miami, FL including all locations within Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe Counties

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN including all locations within Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

New Orleans, LA including all locations within Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes

New York, NY including all locations within the boroughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island and the counties of Nassau and Suffolk

Newark, NJ including all locations within Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union Counties

Philadelphia, PA including all locations within Philadelphia and Bala Cynwyd, PA

Pittsburgh, PA

St. Louis, MO

San Diego, CA including all locations within San Diego County

San Francisco and Oakland, CA including all locations within San Francisco and Alameda Counties

San Jose, CA including all locations within Santa Clara County

Seattle, WA including all locations within King County

Washington, DC including all locations within the corporate limits of Washington, DC, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax, and the counties of Arlington, Loudoun and Fairfax in Virginia, and the counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges in Maryland

~~D.~~ E. Reimbursement for meals and lodging on out-of-state trips shall not begin more than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting, workshop, conference or other objective of trip begins and shall not continue more than twenty-four (24) hours after said meeting, workshop, conference or other objective of trip ends.

~~E.~~ F. Reimbursement for meals and lodging incurred in official travel in areas outside of the United States to implement the objectives of contracts, grants, agreements or gifts for which funds from these sources are furnished shall be reimbursed from said funds at actual cost not to exceed the amount authorized United States Government employees in its periodical publication entitled "Standard Regulations (Government Civilians, Foreign Areas), Department of State, Washington, DC".

~~F.~~ G. Claims submitted to the Director of State Finance for payment under the provisions of this section shall be certified to by the principal fiscal officer or contract and grant administrator of each agency. Such officer shall certify that such claim complies with and is authorized under this section.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1981, Section 500.9A, as amended by Section 58, Chapter 264, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 500.9A), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.9A ~~Meals, incidentals~~ Per diem payments, travel and other actual and necessary expenses may be paid if same is provided for in any contract or grant.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1981, Section 500.17, as amended by Section 59, Chapter 264, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 500.17), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.17 All state departments, boards, commissions and institutions shall make a review each quarter year of its travel expenditures during the previous quarter year, and the head of such agency shall be authorized to make reductions in ~~allowances for meals and incidentals~~ the per diem he approves as determined necessary.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1991.

SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-1-5454 SCE