

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 580

By: Leftwich of the Senate
and
Steidley of the House

An Act relating to the Legislature; amending 74 O.S. 1991, Sections 271, 292.2 and 456, which relate to authorization of the Legislature to employ staff and reimbursement for travel by members of the Legislature; clarifying authority to employ certain staff; authorizing certain compensation for certain temporary employees; authorizing reimbursement for certain travel expenses; repealing 74 O.S. 1991, Sections 291.12, 291.13, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 338, O.S.L. 1992, 291.13a, 291.14, 291.15, 291.16, 291.17, 291.18, 292.3, 292.4, 292.5, 292.6, 292.7, 292.8 and 292.9 (74 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 291.13), which relate to Senate service staff, supervisory personnel, committee staff, records and information staff, services and security staff, and authorization to employ other staff, and which relate to House of Representatives staff, administrative, supervisory, research, legal and fiscal personnel, personal secretaries, service staff, and temporary employees; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 271, is amended to read as follows:

Section 271. A. The Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Oklahoma are hereby authorized to employ such administrative, professional, clerical, stenographic and other employees as in the judgment of each body, respectively, shall by them be deemed necessary and proper.

B. Each week during the legislative session, the Senate and the House of Representatives are hereby authorized to employ chaplains and pages as deemed necessary by the respective bodies.

C. Each body shall be the sole judge of the number, duties, and compensation of its employees.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 292.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 292.2 The positions of permanent employment within the House of Representatives and the salaries attached thereto shall be prescribed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The salaries of permanent employees of the House of Representatives shall be increased at the same rate as is prescribed by law for that particular fiscal year for comparable salaries of employees within the classified service of the Merit System of Personnel Administration. All employees of the House of Representatives shall be paid out of the State Treasury from funds appropriated by the Legislature for said purposes on warrants of the State Treasurer issued on vouchers certified by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 292.2a of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The House of Representatives, during each regular or special session, shall provide by simple resolution for the employment of its temporary employees.

B. The temporary employees of the House of Representatives shall receive additional compensation at the rate of Twelve Dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) per month for each year of prior legislative experience, not to exceed a total additional compensation of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per month. Such employees shall be credited with one (1) year of prior experience for each legislative session in which the employee was employed by the State House of Representatives or the State Senate.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 456, is amended to read as follows:

Section 456. A. Committees and subcommittees of each house of the Legislature are hereby authorized to meet when the Legislature is not in session, subject to the approval of the presiding officer of the respective house.

B. When the Legislature is not in session, members of the Legislature shall be reimbursed their expenses in attending meetings of committees and subcommittees of which they are members or to which they are invited by committee chairs and shall be reimbursed as provided in subsection C of this section for expenses for such meetings and such other legislative business as may be authorized by the rules or by resolution of the member's respective house.

C. In addition to reimbursement for mileage as authorized by law, per diem in lieu of expenses in the amount of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) is hereby authorized for not to exceed twenty (20) days when the Legislature is not in session. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may authorize per diem for meetings exceeding twenty (20) days for members of their respective houses as they deem necessary.

D. A per diem in lieu of expenses in the amount of Forty-five Dollars (\$45.00) is hereby authorized for meetings outside the state by members, officers and employees of the Legislature. A per diem in lieu of expenses in the amount of Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) is hereby authorized for official travel to high-rate geographical areas, as designated in Section 500.9 of this title, by members, officers and employees of the Legislature. Provided, however, that members and employees of the Legislature may, in lieu of the above provisions, be reimbursed for out-of-state travel pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. In addition to reimbursement allowed under subsection D of this section, reimbursement for out-of-state transportation costs shall be made at an amount not exceeding the cost of coach airplane fare. Provided that reimbursement for travel by commercial airplane on a first-class basis may be made if coach-class space is not available within a reasonable time and is justified by attachments to claim for reimbursement. Claims for reimbursement for first-class transportation by commercial airline shall be accompanied by the passenger's duplicate of airline ticket, or other airline receipt which includes information as to class of accommodation for which reimbursement is claimed.

F. Members, officers and employees of the Legislature shall be reimbursed for any membership dues or fees paid to any association or organization connected with the performance of their duties with the state, upon the approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

SECTION 5. REPEALER 74 O.S. 1991, Sections 291.12, 291.13, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 338, O.S.L. 1992, 291.13a, 291.14, 291.15, 291.16, 291.17, 291.18, 292.3, 292.4, 292.5, 292.6, 292.7, 292.8 and 292.9 (74 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 291.13), are hereby repealed.

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.