ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1070

By: Mitchell of the House

and

Littlefield of the Senate

(state government - amending 74 O.S., Sections 500.8 and 500.9 - State Travel Reimbursement Act - expenses - modifying computations - effective date -

emergency)

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1991, Section 500.8, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 335, O.S.L. 1995 (74 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 500.8), is amended to read as follows:

Section 500.8 A reimbursement ~~for~~ in lieu of meal expenses, per day, while in official travel status, ~~of not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00)~~ in an amount authorized by the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for deductibility of expenses for travel while away from home without additional documentation within the State of Oklahoma and ~~Twenty-six Dollars ($26.00)~~ outside the state is authorized. In computing reimbursement for meals 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 ~~Six Dollars and twenty-five cents ($6.25) in state and Six Dollars and fifty cents ($6.50) out of state~~ one-fourth (1/4) of the daily allowable rate. Provided, however, that no reimbursement for meals shall be made for periods which do not include overnight status. If meals 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. 1991, Section 500.9, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 354, O.S.L. 1997 (74 O.S. Supp. 2000, 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 ~~Forty Dollars ($40.00)~~ an amount authorized by the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for deductibility of expenses for travel while away from home without additional documentation or the actual cost, if lower, per night except as provided in subsections C, D and F 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 ~~Thirty-five Dollars ($35.00) per diem~~ an amount authorized by the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for deductibility of expenses for travel while away from home without additional documentation may be authorized on the travel claim for the performance of travel within the State of Oklahoma and not to exceed Thirty-six Dollars ($36.00) 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 ~~Eight Dollars and twenty-five cents ($8.25) in state and Nine Dollars ($9.00) out of state~~ the daily allowable rate. 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 this act.

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 the officials or employees are in official travel status approved by the agency head or 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 be reimbursed for local transportation costs incurred traveling between such optional lodging and the designated hotel, motel or other public lodging place not to exceed the difference between the cost of the designated lodging and the cost of the optional lodging. Receipts issued by the hotel, motel or other public lodging place shall accompany claims for reimbursement.

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 Sixty-five ($65.00) Dollars 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.~~

~~E.~~ State officers and employees who have been required to attend hearings or meetings of any congressional committee or subcommittee or any federal agency, board or commission shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary travel and lodging expenses; however, the agency head must approve any claims in connection with such expenses.

~~F.~~ 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.

~~G.~~ 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". Provided, however, travel to points outside of the United States, whether performed under authority of contract, grant, agreement or otherwise, shall not begin more than forty-eight (48) hours before or end more than forty-eight (48) hours after the objective of the trip.

~~H.~~ 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. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

SECTION 4. 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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of March, 2001.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2001.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate