

SENATE BILL NO. 283

INTRODUCED BY J. BRENDEN, M. BLASDEL, R. BRODEHL, D. HOWARD, J. KEANE, M. LANG, M. MILLER, F. MOORE, R. OSMUNDSON, A. REDFIELD, T. RICHMOND, R. RIPLEY, M. ROSENDALE, C. SMITH, F. THOMAS, R. WEBB, K. WHITE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LEGISLATOR CONSTITUENT ACCOUNT LAWS; PROVIDING FOR A STIPEND AND ALLOWING A PERSON AN INDIVIDUAL OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSTITUENT SERVICES ACCOUNT OF A STATE REPRESENTATIVE OR STATE SENATOR; ESTABLISHING THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION A PERSON AN INDIVIDUAL OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE MAY MAKE TO A CONSTITUENT SERVICES ACCOUNT AND THE AGGREGATE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS A REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR MAY RECEIVE; ADJUSTING DEADLINES; REQUIRING PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS SET BY RULE; AMENDING SECTIONS 13-37-401, 13-37-402, AND 13-37-403, MCA FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES EXPENSES NOT PAID FROM A CONSTITUENT SERVICES ACCOUNT OR OTHERWISE REIMBURSED; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(Refer to Third Reading Blue Bill)

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Constituent services stipend and reimbursement. (1) EACH LEGISLATOR IS ENTITLED TO A STIPEND OF \$3,000 IN A BIENNIUM FOR PROVIDING CONSTITUENT SERVICES, WHICH INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO UNREIMBURSED EXPENSES FOR MILEAGE, PER DIEM, OR LODGING AS WELL AS COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS EXPENSES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR INTERNET, COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE, POSTAGE, AND EDUCATION-RELATED EXPENSES TO REPRESENT CONSTITUENTS.

(1)(2) Subject to subsection (3) SUBSECTIONS (4) AND (5), legislators are allowed reimbursement of up to \$3,000 THE AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (3) in a biennium for:

(a) otherwise unreimbursed expenses related to the legislator's expenses for mileage, meals, or lodging at rates provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503 incurred for providing constituent services; and



1 ~~_____ (b) communication and information technology expenses, such as expenses for telecommunications or~~
 2 ~~internet, computer hardware and software, postage, and education-related expenses to represent and serve~~
 3 ~~constituents.~~

4 (3) THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (2) IS:

5 (A) \$1,000 IF THE LEGISLATOR'S DISTRICT IS AT LEAST 100 SQUARE MILES BUT LESS THAN 1,000 SQUARE MILES;

6 (B) \$2,000 IF THE LEGISLATOR'S DISTRICT IS AT LEAST 1,000 SQUARE MILES BUT LESS THAN 5,000 SQUARE
 7 MILES;

8 (C) \$3,000 IF THE LEGISLATOR'S DISTRICT IS AT LEAST 5,000 SQUARE MILES BUT LESS THAN 7,500 SQUARE
 9 MILES; OR

10 (D) \$4,000 IF THE LEGISLATOR'S DISTRICT IS 7,500 SQUARE MILES OR MORE.

11 ~~(2)(4) Legislators must~~ FOR EXPENSES AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (2), A LEGISLATOR SHALL apply for
 12 reimbursement to the legislative services division ~~and must submit:~~ BY SUBMITTING

13 ~~(a) written documentation that satisfies applicable requirements of Title 2, chapter 18, part 5, for~~
 14 ~~expenses provided in subsection (1)(a); and~~

15 ~~_____ (b) itemized receipts for the expenses provided in subsection (1)(b).~~

16 ~~(3)(5) Legislators may not be reimbursed for expenses paid from a constituent services account provided~~
 17 ~~for in 13-37-402.~~

18
 19 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
 20 integral part of Title 5, chapter 2, part 2, and the provisions of Title 5, chapter 2, part 2, apply to [section 1].

21

22 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

23

- END -