
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 127 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, CLYMER, GINGRICH, GRELL, KAUFFMAN,
REICHLEY, ROCK, STERN, SWANGER AND VULAKOVICH, MARCH 14, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 14, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives, further
2 providing for members' and employees' expenses.

3 RESOLVED, That Rule 14 of the Rules of the House of
4 Representatives be amended to read:

5 RULE 14

6 Members' and Employees' Expenses

7 A member who attends a duly called meeting of a standing or
8 special committee of which he or she is a member when the House
9 is not in session or who is summoned to the State Capitol or
10 elsewhere by the Speaker, or the Majority or Minority Leader of
11 the House, to perform legislative services when the House is not
12 in session shall be reimbursed per day for each day of service,
13 plus mileage to and from the member's residence, at such rates
14 as are established from time to time by the Committee on Rules
15 but not in excess of the applicable maximum mileage rate
16 authorized by the Federal Government. For travel to any location
17 for committee meetings or for travel to the State Capitol for
18 any reason, members cannot receive reimbursement in excess of

1 the applicable maximum per diem rate authorized by the Federal
2 Government. These expenses shall be paid by the Chief Clerk from
3 appropriation accounts under the Chief Clerk's exclusive control
4 and jurisdiction, upon a written request approved by the Speaker
5 of the House, or the Majority or the Minority Leader of the
6 House.

7 An employee of the House summoned by the Speaker or the
8 Majority or Minority Leader of the House to perform legislative
9 services outside of Harrisburg shall be reimbursed for actual
10 expenses and mileage to and from the employee's residence. Such
11 expenses may be paid by the Speaker, Majority or Minority
12 Leader, if they agree to do so, or shall be paid by the Chief
13 Clerk from appropriation accounts under the Chief Clerk's
14 exclusive control and jurisdiction, upon a written request
15 approved by the Speaker, or the Majority or the Minority Leader.
16 District office employees are only permitted to be reimbursed
17 from an account under the control of the Chief Clerk when
18 traveling to Harrisburg for a training program sponsored by
19 either caucus or for travel to a legislative conference approved
20 by the Speaker, the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader. All
21 other travel by district office employees may be reimbursed from
22 the member's accountable expenses or an account under the
23 control of the Speaker, the Majority Leader or the Minority
24 Leader.

25 Members and employees traveling outside the Commonwealth of
26 Pennsylvania who receive any reimbursement for expenses or
27 travel which reimbursement is from public funds shall file with
28 the Chief Clerk a statement containing his or her name and the
29 name, place, date and the purpose of the function.

30 Money appropriated specifically to and allocated under a

1 specific symbol number for allowable expenses of members of the
2 House of Representatives shall be reimbursed to each member upon
3 submission of vouchers and any required documentation by each
4 member on forms prepared by the Chief Clerk of the House. No
5 reimbursement shall be made from this account where a member is
6 directly reimbursed for the same purpose from any other
7 appropriation account.

8 Such allowable expenses of members may be used for any
9 legislative purpose or function, including but not limited to
10 the following:

11 (1) Travel expense on legislative business.

12 (a) Mileage on session or nonsession days at a rate as
13 may be approved from time to time by the Committee on Rules,
14 but not in excess of the maximum mileage rate authorized by
15 the Federal Government for travel; voucher only.

16 (b) Miscellaneous transportation on legislative business
17 (taxi, airport limousine parking, tolls), and expenses of a
18 similar nature; voucher only for any single expense not in
19 excess of \$10.

20 (c) Travel on legislative business by common carrier
21 other than taxi and airport limousine; voucher and receipt
22 from common carrier.

23 (d) Car rental; voucher and receipt from rental agency
24 but reimbursement not to exceed in any month an amount as may
25 be approved from time to time by the Committee on Rules. Any
26 amount in excess of the said amount shall be paid by the
27 person renting the car. In no event shall other than American
28 manufactured cars be rented.

29 (e) Lodging, restaurant charges and other miscellaneous
30 and incidental expenses while away from home. Vouchers only

1 for per diem allowance approved from time to time by the
2 Committee on Rules, but not in excess of the applicable
3 maximum per diem rate authorized by the Federal Government or
4 for actual expenses not in excess of such per diem rate.

5 (2) Administrative, clerical and professional services for
6 legislative business, except for employment of spouses or any
7 relatives, by blood or marriage.

8 (a) Administrative and clerical services; voucher and
9 receipt from person employed.

10 (b) Professional services; voucher and receipt and copy
11 of agreement or contract of employment.

12 (3) Rent for legislative office space; purchase of office
13 supplies; postage; telephone and answering services; printing
14 services and rental only of office equipment; voucher and
15 vendor's receipt, except for postage expense.

16 (4) Official entertainment—restaurant and beverage charges;
17 voucher only for expenses. Receipts for entertainment expenses,
18 together with a statement of the reason for the expense, shall
19 be submitted with the request for reimbursement.

20 (5) Purchase of flags, plaques, publications, photographic
21 services, books, and other similar items in connection with
22 legislative activities; voucher and vendor's receipt.

23 (6) Communications and donations in extending
24 congratulations or sympathy of illness or death; voucher only on
25 expenses not in excess of \$35.

26 No money appropriated for members' and employees' expenses
27 shall be used for contributions to political parties or their
28 affiliated organizations.

29 No money appropriated for members' and employees' expenses
30 shall be used for contributions to charitable organizations or

1 for charitable advertisements. This paragraph shall not prevent
2 a de minimis use of legislative resources, in connection with
3 legislative activities, to benefit a bona fide charitable
4 organization that serves a member's district.

5 No reimbursement or expenditure shall be made out of any
6 appropriation account made to the House or to a member or
7 nonmember officer under a General Appropriation Act or any other
8 appropriation act for the purpose of paying or reimbursing costs
9 for legal services incurred by a member or employee in the
10 defense of a criminal or civil matter brought against the member
11 or employee for conduct that is not protected by section 15 of
12 Article II of the Constitution of Pennsylvania. If reimbursement
13 or expenditure is made for legal services incurred by a member
14 or employee in the defense of a criminal or civil matter brought
15 against the member or employee for conduct that is later
16 determined to not be protected by section 15 of Article II of
17 the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the member or employee shall
18 repay the amount of the reimbursement or expenditure made. The
19 Ethics Committee shall issue to any member upon the member's
20 request an opinion with respect to the reimbursement or
21 expenditure of costs for legal services incurred by a member or
22 employee. The Ethics Committee shall, within 14 days, issue the
23 opinion. The Ethics Committee's opinions shall be public records
24 and may from time to time be published. The member requesting
25 the opinion may, however, require that the opinion shall contain
26 deletions and changes as shall be necessary to protect the
27 identity of the persons involved.

28 Members and employees shall not request reimbursement for the
29 private lease of vehicles leased on a long-term basis. No
30 payments will be made with respect to private, long-term lease

1 vehicle expenses incurred by members or employees except with
2 respect to private, long-term lease arrangements entered into by
3 a member prior to March 13, 2007, payments for which will be
4 made in accord with the rules in place on March 12, 2007. The
5 Chief Clerk is authorized to enter into a master lease agreement
6 with the Department of General Services for the long-term lease
7 of automobiles.

8 All disbursements made, debts incurred or advancements paid
9 from any appropriation account made to the House or to a member
10 or nonmember officer under a General Appropriation Act or any
11 other appropriation act shall be recorded in a monthly report
12 and filed with the Chief Clerk by the person authorized to make
13 such disbursement, incur any debt or receive any advancement on
14 a form prescribed by the Chief Clerk.

15 The Chief Clerk shall prescribe the form of all such reports
16 and make such forms available to those persons required to file
17 such reports. Such report form shall include:

18 (1) As to personnel:

19 (a) The name, home address, job title, brief description
20 of duties and where they are performed, department or member
21 or members to whom assigned, the name of immediate supervisor
22 and minimum hours of employment per week of each employee.

23 (b) The appropriation account from which such employee
24 is compensated, the amount of compensation and whether such
25 person is on salary, per diem or contract.

26 (2) As to all other expenditures:

27 (a) To whom it was paid, the amount thereof, and the
28 nature of the goods, services or other purpose for which the
29 expenditure was made.

30 (b) The appropriation account from which the expenditure

1 was made and the name or names of the person or persons
2 requesting and/or authorizing the same.

3 The reporting requirements as to personnel may be fulfilled
4 by the maintenance in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the House
5 of an alphabetized file containing the current information for
6 each employee as set forth above.

7 All monthly reports filed on disbursements made or debts
8 incurred by any officer or member or employee from
9 appropriations made to the House or to a member or nonmember
10 officer under any General Appropriation Act, and the
11 documentation for each disbursement, shall be public information
12 and shall be available in accordance with the act of February
13 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

14 All vouchers and requisitions relating to all expenditures,
15 expenses, disbursements and other obligations out of all
16 appropriated funds of the House, and the documentation
17 evidencing payment of the vouchers and requisitions, shall be
18 available in accordance with the Right-to-Know Law.

19 All requests for reimbursement out of any appropriation shall
20 be accompanied by a voucher, or other documents where required,
21 evidencing payment or approval. All requests for reimbursement
22 out of any appropriation payable to a member, nonmember officer
23 or employee shall be void if not submitted within 60 days of the
24 date that the otherwise allowable expense is incurred for any
25 and all otherwise allowable expenses, including without
26 limitation, per diem, mileage and actual expenses incurred. Any
27 such void request for reimbursement may not be paid except
28 pursuant to a motion to suspend this rule for good cause
29 specific to the voided request for reimbursement. In no event
30 shall any payment or reimbursement be made for any otherwise

1 allowable expense incurred on or before March 12, 2007. The
2 voucher form shall be approved and supplied by the Chief Clerk.
3 Receipts or documentation of every expenditure or disbursement
4 which is in excess of the maximum amount as set forth herein
5 shall be attached to the voucher. Where a request for payment is
6 made in advance of an expense actually incurred, the Chief
7 Clerk, before making such advance payment shall require a
8 description satisfactory to the Chief Clerk of the item or
9 service to be purchased or the expense to be incurred, and a
10 receipt or other documentation shall be given to the Chief Clerk
11 after the item or service has been purchased or expense incurred
12 as evidence that such advancement was in fact expended for such
13 purpose.

14 All reports, vouchers and receipts from which reports are
15 prepared and filed shall be retained by the Chief Clerk, officer
16 or member, as the case may be, for such period of time as may be
17 necessary to enable the Legislative Audit Advisory Commission
18 created pursuant to the act of June 30, 1970 (P.L.442, No.151),
19 entitled "An act implementing the provisions of Article VIII,
20 section 10 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, by designating
21 the Commonwealth officers who shall be charged with the function
22 of auditing the financial transactions after the occurrence
23 thereof of the Legislative and Judicial branches of the
24 government of the Commonwealth, establishing a Legislative Audit
25 Advisory Commission, and imposing certain powers and duties on
26 such commission," to conduct, through certified public
27 accountants appointed by it, annual audits to assure that such
28 disbursements made or debts incurred were in accordance with
29 Legislative Audit Advisory Commission guidelines and standards
30 as approved by the Committee on Rules, or for a minimum of three

1 years, whichever is longer. All annual audit reports shall be
2 available for public inspection. Photocopies of such reports
3 shall be available for a fee established by the Chief Clerk not
4 to exceed the cost of duplication.

5 Except as specifically prohibited by law or limited by this
6 rule, all expenditures of funds appropriated to the House or to
7 a member or nonmember officer shall be subject to the
8 expenditure guidelines established by the Rules Committee. The
9 Rules Committee shall establish standards regarding
10 documentation evidencing payment out of any appropriations
11 account made to the House or to a member or nonmember officer.

12 The Bipartisan Management Committee shall receive and review
13 suggestions from the Comptroller on ways to reduce costs and
14 improve the fiscal operations of the House. The Comptroller,
15 following authorization by the Bipartisan Management Committee,
16 shall implement cost-reducing and other new measures to improve
17 the fiscal operations of the House.