

HB5007



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5007

Introduced 1/27/2022, by Rep. Justin Slaughter

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

25 ILCS 115/4

from Ch. 63, par. 15.1

Amends the General Assembly Compensation Act. Provides that a member of the General Assembly may petition to use a portion of the office allowance provided to that member to pay the expenses of past due utility bills.

LRB102 25456 RJF 34742 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The General Assembly Compensation Act is
5 amended by changing Section 4 as follows:

6 (25 ILCS 115/4) (from Ch. 63, par. 15.1)

7 Sec. 4. Office allowance. Beginning July 1, 2001 and
8 through July 1, 2020, each member of the House of
9 Representatives is authorized to approve the expenditure of
10 not more than \$61,000 per year and each member of the Senate is
11 authorized to approve the expenditure of not more than \$73,000
12 per year to pay for "personal services", "contractual
13 services", "commodities", "printing", "travel", "operation of
14 automotive equipment", "telecommunications services", as
15 defined in the State Finance Act, and the compensation of one
16 or more legislative assistants authorized pursuant to this
17 Section, in connection with his or her legislative duties and
18 not in connection with any political campaign. On July 1, 2002
19 and on July 1 of each year thereafter, the amount authorized
20 per year under this Section for each member of the Senate and
21 each member of the House of Representatives shall be increased
22 by a percentage increase equivalent to the lesser of (i) the
23 increase in the designated cost of living index or (ii) 5%. The

1 designated cost of living index is the index known as the
2 "Employment Cost Index, Wages and Salaries, By Occupation and
3 Industry Groups: State and Local Government Workers: Public
4 Administration" as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics
5 of the U.S. Department of Labor for the calendar year
6 immediately preceding the year of the respective July 1st
7 increase date. The increase shall be added to the then current
8 amount, and the adjusted amount so determined shall be the
9 annual amount beginning July 1 of the increase year until July
10 1 of the next year. No increase under this provision shall be
11 less than zero.

12 Beginning July 1, 2021, each member of the House of
13 Representatives is authorized to approve the expenditure of
14 not more than \$179,000 per year and each member of the Senate
15 is authorized to approve the expenditure of not more than
16 \$214,000 per year to pay for "personal services", "contractual
17 services", "commodities", "printing", "travel", "operation of
18 automotive equipment", "telecommunications services", as
19 defined in the State Finance Act, and the compensation of one
20 or more legislative assistants authorized pursuant to this
21 Section, in connection with his or her legislative duties and
22 not in connection with any political campaign. On July 1, 2022
23 and on July 1 of each year thereafter, the amount authorized
24 per year under this Section for each member of the Senate and
25 each member of the House of Representatives shall be increased
26 by a percentage increase equivalent to the lesser of (i) the

1 increase in the designated cost of living index or (ii) 5%. The
2 designated cost of living index is the index known as the
3 "Employment Cost Index, Wages and Salaries, By Occupation and
4 Industry Groups: State and Local Government Workers: Public
5 Administration" as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 of the U.S. Department of Labor for the calendar year
7 immediately preceding the year of the respective July 1st
8 increase date. The increase shall be added to the then current
9 amount, and the adjusted amount so determined shall be the
10 annual amount beginning July 1 of the increase year until July
11 1 of the next year. No increase under this provision shall be
12 less than zero.

13 A member may purchase office equipment if the member
14 certifies to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the
15 House, as applicable, that the purchase price, whether paid in
16 lump sum or installments, amounts to less than would be
17 charged for renting or leasing the equipment over its
18 anticipated useful life. All such equipment must be purchased
19 through the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House,
20 as applicable, for proper identification and verification of
21 purchase.

22 Each member of the General Assembly is authorized to
23 employ one or more legislative assistants, who shall be solely
24 under the direction and control of that member, for the
25 purpose of assisting the member in the performance of his or
26 her official duties. A legislative assistant may be employed

1 pursuant to this Section as a full-time employee, part-time
2 employee, or contractual employee, at the discretion of the
3 member. If employed as a State employee, a legislative
4 assistant shall receive employment benefits on the same terms
5 and conditions that apply to other employees of the General
6 Assembly. Each member shall adopt and implement personnel
7 policies for legislative assistants under his or her direction
8 and control relating to work time requirements, documentation
9 for reimbursement for travel on official State business,
10 compensation, and the earning and accrual of State benefits
11 for those legislative assistants who may be eligible to
12 receive those benefits. The policies shall also require
13 legislative assistants to periodically submit time sheets
14 documenting, in quarter-hour increments, the time spent each
15 day on official State business. The policies shall require the
16 time sheets to be submitted on paper, electronically, or both
17 and to be maintained in either paper or electronic format by
18 the applicable fiscal office for a period of at least 2 years.
19 Contractual employees may satisfy the time sheets requirement
20 by complying with the terms of their contract, which shall
21 provide for a means of compliance with this requirement. A
22 member may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph by
23 adopting and implementing the personnel policies promulgated
24 by that member's legislative leader under the State Officials
25 and Employees Ethics Act with respect to that member's
26 legislative assistants.

1 As used in this Section the term "personal services" shall
2 include contributions of the State under the Federal Insurance
3 Contribution Act and under Article 14 of the Illinois Pension
4 Code. As used in this Section the term "contractual services"
5 shall not include improvements to real property unless those
6 improvements are the obligation of the lessee under the lease
7 agreement. Beginning July 1, 1989, as used in the Section, the
8 term "travel" shall be limited to travel in connection with a
9 member's legislative duties and not in connection with any
10 political campaign. Beginning on the effective date of this
11 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, as used in this
12 Section, the term "printing" includes, but is not limited to,
13 newsletters, brochures, certificates, congratulatory
14 mailings, greeting or welcome messages, anniversary or
15 birthday cards, and congratulations for prominent achievement
16 cards. As used in this Section, the term "printing" includes
17 fees for non-substantive resolutions charged by the Clerk of
18 the House of Representatives under subsection (c-5) of Section
19 1 of the Legislative Materials Act. No newsletter or brochure
20 that is paid for, in whole or in part, with funds provided
21 under this Section may be printed or mailed during a period
22 beginning February 1 of the year of a general primary election
23 and ending the day after the general primary election and
24 during a period beginning September 1 of the year of a general
25 election and ending the day after the general election, except
26 that such a newsletter or brochure may be mailed during those

1 times if it is mailed to a constituent in response to that
2 constituent's inquiry concerning the needs of that constituent
3 or questions raised by that constituent. Nothing in this
4 Section shall be construed to authorize expenditures for
5 lodging and meals while a member is in attendance at sessions
6 of the General Assembly.

7 Any utility bill for service provided to a member's
8 district office for a period including portions of 2
9 consecutive fiscal years may be paid from funds appropriated
10 for such expenditure in either fiscal year. A member may also
11 petition to use a portion of the office allowance provided to
12 that member under this Section to pay the expenses of past due
13 utility bills.

14 If a vacancy occurs in the office of Senator or
15 Representative in the General Assembly, any office equipment
16 in the possession of the vacating member shall transfer to the
17 member's successor; if the successor does not want such
18 equipment, it shall be transferred to the Secretary of the
19 Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case
20 may be, and if not wanted by other members of the General
21 Assembly then to the Department of Central Management Services
22 for treatment as surplus property under the State Property
23 Control Act. Each member, on or before June 30th of each year,
24 shall conduct an inventory of all equipment purchased pursuant
25 to this Act. Such inventory shall be filed with the Secretary
26 of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, as the case may be.

1 Whenever a vacancy occurs, the Secretary of the Senate or the
2 Clerk of the House, as the case may be, shall conduct an
3 inventory of equipment purchased.

4 In the event that a member leaves office during his or her
5 term, any unexpended or unobligated portion of the allowance
6 granted under this Section shall lapse. The vacating member's
7 successor shall be granted an allowance in an amount, rounded
8 to the nearest dollar, computed by dividing the annual
9 allowance by 365 and multiplying the quotient by the number of
10 days remaining in the fiscal year.

11 From any appropriation for the purposes of this Section
12 for a fiscal year which overlaps 2 General Assemblies, no more
13 than 1/2 of the annual allowance per member may be spent or
14 encumbered by any member of either the outgoing or incoming
15 General Assembly, except that any member of the incoming
16 General Assembly who was a member of the outgoing General
17 Assembly may encumber or spend any portion of his annual
18 allowance within the fiscal year.

19 The appropriation for the annual allowances permitted by
20 this Section shall be included in an appropriation to the
21 President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives for their respective members. The President of
23 the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall voucher for
24 payment individual members' expenditures from their annual
25 office allowances to the State Comptroller, subject to the
26 authority of the Comptroller under Section 9 of the State

1 Comptroller Act.

2 Nothing in this Section prohibits the expenditure of
3 personal funds or the funds of a political committee
4 controlled by an officeholder to defray the customary and
5 reasonable expenses of an officeholder in connection with the
6 performance of governmental and public service functions.

7 (Source: P.A. 102-16, eff. 6-17-21.)