

HB3223



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3223

by Rep. Kenneth Dunkin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

25 ILCS 115/4

from Ch. 63, par. 15.1

Amends the General Assembly Compensation Act. Beginning July 1, 2015, provides that each member of the House of Representatives is authorized to approve an expenditure of not more than \$101,000 (currently, \$61,000) and each member of the Senate is authorized to approve the expenditure of not more than \$113,000 (currently, \$73,000) for various expenses. Allows any member in a "high need district" to approve expenditures of an additional \$10,000. Defines "high need district" to include districts affected by high rates of poverty or crime.

LRB099 09732 JLK 29942 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 amended
5 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 through
8 June 30, 2015, each member of the House of Representatives is
9 authorized to approve the expenditure of not more than \$61,000
10 per year and each member of the Senate is authorized to approve
11 the expenditure of not more than \$73,000 per year to pay for
12 "personal services", "contractual services", "commodities",
13 "printing", "travel", "operation of automotive equipment",
14 "telecommunications services", as defined in the State Finance
15 Act, and the compensation of one or more legislative assistants
16 authorized pursuant to this Section, in connection with his or
17 her legislative duties and not in connection with any political
18 campaign. On July 1, 2002 and on July 1 of each year thereafter
19 until 2014, the amount authorized per year under this Section
20 for each member of the Senate and each member of the House of
21 Representatives shall be increased by a percentage increase
22 equivalent to the lesser of (i) the increase in the designated
23 cost of living index or (ii) 5%. The designated cost of living

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

11 Beginning July 1, 2015, each member of the House of
12 Representatives is authorized to approve the expenditure of not
13 more than \$101,000 per year and each member of the Senate is
14 authorized to approve the expenditure of not more than \$113,000
15 per year to pay for "personal services", "contractual
16 services", "commodities", "printing", "travel", "operation of
17 automotive equipment", "telecommunications services", as
18 defined in the State Finance Act, and the compensation of one
19 or more legislative assistants authorized pursuant to this
20 Section, in connection with his or her legislative duties and
21 not in connection with any political campaign. Any member
22 representing a "high need district" is authorized to approve
23 expenditures under this Section of up to an additional \$10,000
24 each year. For the purposes of this Section, "high need
25 district" include districts affected by high rates of poverty
26 or crime. On July 1, 2016 and on July 1 of each year

1 thereafter, the amount authorized per year under this Section
2 for each member of the Senate and each member of the House of
3 Representatives shall be increased by a percentage increase
4 equivalent to the lesser of (i) the increase in the designated
5 cost of living index or (ii) 5%.

6 A member may purchase office equipment if the member
7 certifies to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the
8 House, as applicable, that the purchase price, whether paid in
9 lump sum or installments, amounts to less than would be charged
10 for renting or leasing the equipment over its anticipated
11 useful life. All such equipment must be purchased through the
12 Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, as
13 applicable, for proper identification and verification of
14 purchase.

15 Each member of the General Assembly is authorized to employ
16 one or more legislative assistants, who shall be solely under
17 the direction and control of that member, for the purpose of
18 assisting the member in the performance of his or her official
19 duties. A legislative assistant may be employed pursuant to
20 this Section as a full-time employee, part-time employee, or
21 contractual employee, at the discretion of the member. If
22 employed as a State employee, a legislative assistant shall
23 receive employment benefits on the same terms and conditions
24 that apply to other employees of the General Assembly. Each
25 member shall adopt and implement personnel policies for
26 legislative assistants under his or her direction and control

1 relating to work time requirements, documentation for
2 reimbursement for travel on official State business,
3 compensation, and the earning and accrual of State benefits for
4 those legislative assistants who may be eligible to receive
5 those benefits. The policies shall also require legislative
6 assistants to periodically submit time sheets documenting, in
7 quarter-hour increments, the time spent each day on official
8 State business. The policies shall require the time sheets to
9 be submitted on paper, electronically, or both and to be
10 maintained in either paper or electronic format by the
11 applicable fiscal office for a period of at least 2 years.
12 Contractual employees may satisfy the time sheets requirement
13 by complying with the terms of their contract, which shall
14 provide for a means of compliance with this requirement. A
15 member may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph by
16 adopting and implementing the personnel policies promulgated
17 by that member's legislative leader under the State Officials
18 and Employees Ethics Act with respect to that member's
19 legislative assistants.

20 As used in this Section the term "personal services" shall
21 include contributions of the State under the Federal Insurance
22 Contribution Act and under Article 14 of the Illinois Pension
23 Code. As used in this Section the term "contractual services"
24 shall not include improvements to real property unless those
25 improvements are the obligation of the lessee under the lease
26 agreement. Beginning July 1, 1989, as used in the Section, the

1 term "travel" shall be limited to travel in connection with a
2 member's legislative duties and not in connection with any
3 political campaign. Beginning on the effective date of this
4 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, as used in this
5 Section, the term "printing" includes, but is not limited to,
6 newsletters, brochures, certificates, congratulatory mailings,
7 greeting or welcome messages, anniversary or birthday cards,
8 and congratulations for prominent achievement cards. As used in
9 this Section, the term "printing" includes fees for
10 non-substantive resolutions charged by the Clerk of the House
11 of Representatives under subsection (c-5) of Section 1 of the
12 Legislative Materials Act. No newsletter or brochure that is
13 paid for, in whole or in part, with funds provided under this
14 Section may be printed or mailed during a period beginning
15 February 1 of the year of a general primary election and ending
16 the day after the general primary election and during a period
17 beginning September 1 of the year of a general election and
18 ending the day after the general election, except that such a
19 newsletter or brochure may be mailed during those times if it
20 is mailed to a constituent in response to that constituent's
21 inquiry concerning the needs of that constituent or questions
22 raised by that constituent. Nothing in this Section shall be
23 construed to authorize expenditures for lodging and meals while
24 a member is in attendance at sessions of the General Assembly.

25 Any utility bill for service provided to a member's
26 district office for a period including portions of 2

1 consecutive fiscal years may be paid from funds appropriated
2 for such expenditure in either fiscal year.

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

19 In the event that a member leaves office during his or her
20 term, any unexpended or unobligated portion of the allowance
21 granted under this Section shall lapse. The vacating member's
22 successor shall be granted an allowance in an amount, rounded
23 to the nearest dollar, computed by dividing the annual
24 allowance by 365 and multiplying the quotient by the number of
25 days remaining in the fiscal year.

26 From any appropriation for the purposes of this Section for

1 a fiscal year which overlaps 2 General Assemblies, no more than
2 1/2 of the annual allowance per member may be spent or
3 encumbered by any member of either the outgoing or incoming
4 General Assembly, except that any member of the incoming
5 General Assembly who was a member of the outgoing General
6 Assembly may encumber or spend any portion of his annual
7 allowance within the fiscal year.

8 The appropriation for the annual allowances permitted by
9 this Section shall be included in an appropriation to the
10 President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives for their respective members. The President of
12 the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall voucher for
13 payment individual members' expenditures from their annual
14 office allowances to the State Comptroller, subject to the
15 authority of the Comptroller under Section 9 of the State
16 Comptroller Act.

17 Nothing in this Section prohibits the expenditure of
18 personal funds or the funds of a political committee controlled
19 by an officeholder to defray the customary and reasonable
20 expenses of an officeholder in connection with the performance
21 of governmental and public service functions.

22 (Source: P.A. 95-6, eff. 6-20-07; 96-555, eff. 8-18-09; 96-886,
23 eff. 1-1-11.)