

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 849\*

Short Title: Increase State Emp. Travel Rates.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Reeves; Kinnaird, Miller and Wellons.

Referred to: Appropriations.

April 15, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT INCREASING THE RATES OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR LODGING AND MILEAGE EXPENSES INCURRED BY STATE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN CONNECTION WITH TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR TAXES PAID ON LODGING WHILE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 138-6(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Travel on official business by the officers and employees of State departments, institutions and agencies which operate from funds deposited with the State Treasurer shall be reimbursed at the following rates:

(1) For transportation by privately owned automobile, irrespective of the number of miles travelled, the State business standard mileage reimbursement rate set by the Internal Revenue Service per mile of travel is established at thirty-one and one-half cents (31.5¢) per mile and the actual cost of tolls paid. Any other law which sets a mileage rate by referring to the rate set herein, instead establishes a rate of twenty five cents (25¢) per mile.—No reimbursement shall be made for the use of a personal car in commuting from an employee's home to his duty station in connection with regularly scheduled work hours. Any designation of an employee's home as his duty station by a department head shall require prior approval by the Office of State Budget and Management on an annual basis.

(2) For bus, railroad, Pullman, or other conveyance, actual fare.

1 (3) For expenses incurred for subsistence, payment of ~~seventy-one dollars~~  
2 ~~(\$71.00)~~ eighty-one dollars (\$81.00) per day plus applicable lodging  
3 taxes when traveling in-state or ~~eighty-three dollars (\$83.00)~~ ninety-  
4 three dollars (\$93.00) per day plus applicable lodging taxes when  
5 traveling out-of-state. For the purposes of this section, the term  
6 'applicable lodging taxes' means sales taxes and room occupancy taxes  
7 paid on reimbursable lodging and documented by a receipt from a  
8 commercial establishment. When travel involves less than a full day  
9 (24-hour period), a reasonable prorated amount shall be paid in  
10 accordance with regulations and criteria which shall be promulgated  
11 and published by the Director of the Budget. Reimbursement to State  
12 employees for lunches eaten while on official business may be made  
13 only in the following circumstances:

- 14 a. When an overnight stay is required reimbursement is allowed  
15 while an employee is in travel status;  
16 b. When the cost of the lunch is included as part of a registration  
17 fee for a formal congress, conference, assembly, or  
18 convocation, by whatever name called. Such assembly must  
19 involve the active participation of persons other than the  
20 employees of a single State department, institution, or agency  
21 and must be necessary for conducting official State business; or  
22 c. When the State employee is a member of a State board,  
23 commission, committee, or council which operates from funds  
24 deposited with the State Treasurer, and the lunch is preplanned  
25 as part of the meeting for the entire board, commission,  
26 committee, or council.

27 (4) For convention registration fees not to exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00)  
28 per convention."

29 Section 2. Effective upon the convening of the 1999 Regular Session of the  
30 General Assembly, G.S. 120-3.1(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

31 "(2) A travel allowance at the rate which is the State business standard  
32 mileage reimbursement rate set by ~~the Internal Revenue Service in Rev.~~  
33 ~~Proc. 93-51, December 27, 1993, G.S. 138-6,~~ whenever the member  
34 travels, whether in or out of session, as a representative of the General  
35 Assembly or of its committees or commissions, with the approval of  
36 the Legislative Services Commission."

37 Section 3. The Office of State Budget and Management shall revise the  
38 schedule used for reporting allowable subsistence expenses incurred by State officers  
39 and employees while traveling on State business by allocating to lodging the increase  
40 provided in Section 1 of this act.

41 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997, except that Section 2 of  
42 this act becomes effective upon the convening of the 1999 Regular Session of the  
43 General Assembly.