

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed  
prior to this session of the General Assembly.  
**Act 288 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 785

5 By: Senators Womack, Argue  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS IN THE  
10 AMOUNTS FOR LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT, IN  
11 LIEU OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS, AND EXTRA COMPENSATION  
12 FOR CHAIRS AND COCHAIRS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO MAKE INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS IN  
15 THE AMOUNTS FOR LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE  
16 REIMBURSEMENT, IN LIEU OF PER DIEM  
17 PAYMENTS, AND EXTRA COMPENSATION FOR  
18 CHAIRS AND COCHAIRS.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-2-212(c) is amended to read as follows:

25 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, the maximum amount of  
26 reimbursement for legislative expenses incurred by members of the General  
27 Assembly shall be, at the option of each member, either five thousand eight  
28 hundred twenty dollars (\$5,820) per year, six thousand five hundred forty  
29 dollars (\$6,540) per year, or ~~nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$9,600)~~  
30 fourteen thousand four hundred dollars (\$14,400) per year.  
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32 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 10-2-212(d) is amended to read as follows:

33 (d)(1) Any member of the General Assembly may elect not to receive per  
34 diem and mileage payments for attending legislative sessions and for  
35 attending legislative activities and in lieu thereof be reimbursed up to an



1 additional ~~six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$6,800)~~ ten thousand two  
 2 hundred dollars (\$10,200) per year.

3 (2) Such election shall be made in writing to the presiding officer  
 4 of the legislative body to which the member is elected.

5 (3)(A) The election must occur prior to the fifth day of a regular  
 6 session, and the election shall remain in effect until a subsequent election  
 7 is made at the next regular session.

8 (B) However, if the maximum amount of reimbursement is altered  
 9 by law, the member of the General Assembly shall make the election within  
 10 thirty (30) days after the law becomes effective, and the election shall  
 11 remain in effect until a subsequent election is made at the next regular  
 12 session.

13  
 14 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 10-2-215 is amended to read as follows:

15 10-2-215. Additional compensation for committee chairs and cochairs.

16 (a)(1) In addition to the expense allowance provided by § 10-2-212 and  
 17 all laws amendatory and supplemental thereto, the chair of each of the  
 18 standing, select, and joint committees of either house of the General  
 19 Assembly, the cochairs of the Legislative Council and the chairs of each  
 20 subcommittee of Legislative Council, the cochairs of the Legislative Joint  
 21 Auditing Committee and the chairs of each subcommittee of Legislative Joint  
 22 Auditing Committee, the Speaker Designate of the House of Representatives,  
 23 President Pro Tempore Designate, the House and Senate chairs of the  
 24 Review/PEER Subcommittee, the Personnel Subcommittee, the Claims  
 25 Subcommittee, and the Special Language Subcommittee of the Joint Budget  
 26 Committee, and the cochair of any committee of the General Assembly which  
 27 does not function during the legislative session shall be eligible to receive  
 28 an additional ~~two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400)~~ three thousand six  
 29 hundred dollars (\$3,600) per year ~~and the~~.

30 (2) The chair of each subcommittee of each standing committee of  
 31 either house shall be eligible to receive an additional ~~one thousand two~~  
 32 ~~hundred dollars (\$1,200)~~ one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) per  
 33 year. If a member of the General Assembly is eligible to receive payment  
 34 under this subdivision (a)(2) due to service in more than one (1) covered  
 35 position, the member shall be eligible to receive three thousand six hundred  
 36 dollars (\$3,600) per year.

1           (3) No member of the General Assembly shall receive more than  
2 three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600) per year under this section.

3           (b) This additional allowance shall be paid from the same funds and  
4 appropriation and in the same manner as provided for the allowances  
5 authorized by § 10-2-212 and all laws amendatory and supplemental thereto.  
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7           SECTION 4. This act shall apply retroactively to March 1, 2007.  
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9           SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
10 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the amount of legislative  
11 expense reimbursement, in lieu of per diem payments, and compensation for  
12 chairs and cochairs has not been updated in several years; that this act  
13 adjusts the payments for inflation factors; and that this act is immediately  
14 necessary in order to provide payments at the corrected amounts. Therefore,  
15 an emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective  
17 on:

18                   (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

19                   (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
20 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
21 bill; or

22                   (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
23 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.  
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