

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

SENATE BILL1

By: Senate Efficiency Committee

"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO PAY EXPENSES OF MEMBERS THEREOF, TO PAY SALARIES TO THE EMPLOYEES THEREOF, TO PAY FOR AND/OR PURCHASE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE SENATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. That the sum of \$888,000.00 be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of the Constitutional and Fiscal Agencies Fund, for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses of the Seventy-Sixth General Assembly and for paying the expenses of the members thereof as provided herein.

SECTION 2. That the following items of expenditure for the Senate be authorized:

(1) Mileage allowance of Members	14,000.00
(2) Per Diem of Members	36,000.00
(3) Contingent Expense of Members	130,000.00
(4) Salaries of Employees	215,000.00
(5) Maintenance and Operation	350,000.00
(6) Secretary of the Senate	50,000.00
(7) Secretary to the Senate	75,000.00
(8) Employer Matching Fund	18,000.00

SECTION 3. The Efficiency Committee may, at its direction, employ Senate employees; and may transfer or discharge any employee if it is deemed for the best interest of the Senate.

SECTION 4. That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to issue

vouchers evidencing all payments authorized by the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee and, when vouchers issued covering expenditures of the Senate have been so issued and approved, the State Auditor is directed to convert such vouchers into warrants, and the Treasurer is directed to pay the same out of the funds appropriated herein.

SECTION 5. (A) The General Assembly hereby recognizes that the increased workload of bills, resolutions, and other matters to be considered during legislative sessions, and the responsibilities of members in studying and considering such legislation and in communicating with their constituents concerning pending or proposed legislation, imposes additional burdens upon the financial resources of the individual members of the Senate. The General Assembly further determines that service in the General Assembly requires members of the Senate to defray the cost of maintaining a home, and in many instances, a legislative office in their representative districts, as well as incur expenses for meals, lodging, and related expenses while attending legislative sessions at the State Capitol, which imposes additional burdens upon the financial resources of the individual members.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Arkansas that members of the Senate shall be provided reimbursement for reasonable expenditures incurred by the members of the Senate for the following categories of expenses incurred in attending Regular or Extraordinary Sessions of the General Assembly:

- (1) staff services of pages, secretarial, clerical, and other assistants;
- (2) postage, additional stationery, supplies, telephone and telegraph services; and
- (3) reasonable cost of rent, lodging, meals, and related living and legislative expenses incurred while attending regular or special legislative sessions.

The Secretary of the Senate, with the approval of the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee, is hereby authorized to reimburse members of the Senate from funds appropriated by this Act, upon the filing of verified claims therefor, for actual expenses incurred by such members with respect to the authorized expenditures hereinabove enumerated, but not to exceed, in the aggregate, the sum of \$350.00 per week per member.

- (B) In addition to the items of expense for which reimbursement may be

made as provided in subsection (A) above, members of the Senate shall be entitled to reimbursement for mileage at the same rate provided by law for state employees for official state travel, for not more than one (1) round trip per week in traveling from their place of residence to Little Rock and return for each week the General Assembly meets in Regular or Extraordinary Session.

(C) Members of the Senate shall be entitled to receive per diem of Twenty Dollars (\$20) for each day the General Assembly is in Regular or Extraordinary Session by filing claims therefor with the Secretary of the Senate and upon approval by the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee. Such per diem shall be in addition to reimbursement for expenses and mileage as authorized hereinabove, and shall be paid from the Maintenance and Operation appropriation.

SECTION 6. If the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee and the Secretary of the Senate should determine that any item or portion thereof appropriated herein for a specific purpose is not needed for such purpose, they may certify such fact to the State Auditor and the State Auditor shall cause transfer to be made from one item to another.

SECTION 7. The General Assembly hereby determines that the conducting of an Institute of Legislative Procedure prior to the convening of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly, for the orientation of existing and newly-elected members of the General Assembly on rules and legislative procedure and current fiscal conditions and other problems in state government, is essential to the proper functioning of each Regular Session of the General Assembly.

(a) The Arkansas Legislative Council and the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall cooperate in jointly sponsoring a biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure to carry out the aforementioned purposes. Members of the preceding General Assembly who have been re-elected to a new term in either house of the General Assembly, and newly-elected members of the House of Representatives and Senate shall be eligible to attend the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and shall be entitled, upon filing a claim therefor, to per diem in the amount fixed by law for payment to members of the General Assembly for attendance at meetings of Joint Interim Committees per day for each day in attending the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure, but in no event to exceed two (2) days per member, plus mileage in traveling

from their place of residence to the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and return at the same rate of mileage authorized for official travel by state employees. Per diem and mileage for members of the General Assembly and newly-elected members of the General Assembly for attending the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure shall be paid by their respective Houses from the monies appropriated therefor.

(b) There is hereby appropriated, to be payable from the Constitutional and Fiscal Agencies Fund, to the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, to be used for payment of per diem and mileage of members of the Senate who attend the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure, to be held prior to the convening of the 1989 Regular Session of the General Assembly, the sum of \$2,500.00.

SECTION 8. The Chairman of the Efficiency Committee is hereby authorized to designate one or more members of the Senate to represent the Senate at regional or national conferences of legislators or other official meetings held during the interim between legislative sessions at which the State of Arkansas is requested to be represented by members of the General Assembly, and may pay the actual and necessary travel, meals and lodging and other expenses therefor from the funds appropriated herein.

SECTION 9. The Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary to the Senate shall perform such duties during the Regular Session of the General Assembly and during the interim between the convening of Special Sessions and/or the next regular session of the General Assembly as may be provided by the rules of the Senate or by the Senate Efficiency Committee.

SECTION 10. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 11. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 12. It is hereby determined that matters vitally affecting the welfare of the State of Arkansas must be dealt with by the Seventy-Sixth General Assembly, and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the people of the State of Arkansas, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall take effect and in full force from and after its passage and approval.

