

1 \_\_\_\_\_ BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
3 (Primary Sponsor)  
4 BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE CALCULATION OF COMPENSATION AND  
6 EXPENSES FOR LEGISLATORS WHEN NOT IN SESSION; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-18-502 AND 5-2-302,  
7 MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

8  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10  
11 **Section 1.** Section 2-18-502, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"2-18-502. Computation of meal allowance.** (1) Except as provided in 5-2-302 and subsections (2)  
13 and (4) of this section, an employee is eligible for the meal allowance provided in 2-18-501, only if the  
14 employee is in a travel status for more than 3 continuous hours during the following hours:

- 15 (a) for the morning meal allowance, between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 10 a.m.;
- 16 (b) for the midday meal allowance, between the hours of 10:01 a.m. and 3 p.m.; and
- 17 (c) for the evening meal allowance, between the hours of 3:01 p.m. and 12 midnight.

18 (2) An eligible employee may receive:

19 (a) only one of the three meal allowances provided, if the travel was performed within the  
20 employee's assigned travel shift; or

21 (b) a maximum of two meal allowances if the travel begins before or was completed after the  
22 employee's assigned travel shift and the travel did not exceed 24 hours.

23 (3) "Travel shift" is that period of time beginning 1 hour before and terminating 1 hour after the  
24 employee's normally assigned work shift.

25 (4) An appointed member of a state board, commission, or council ~~or a member of a legislative~~  
26 ~~subcommittee or select or interim committee~~ is entitled to a midday meal allowance on a day the individual is  
27 attending a meeting of the board, commission, or council, ~~or committee~~, regardless of proximity of the meeting  
28 place to the individual's residence or headquarters. ~~This subsection does not apply to a member of a legislative~~

1 committee during a legislative session.

2 (5) The department of administration shall prescribe policies necessary to effectively administer  
3 this section for state government."  
4

5 **Section 2.** Section 5-2-302, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"5-2-302. Compensation and expenses when legislature not in session.** When the legislature is  
7 not in session, a member of the legislature, while engaged in legislative business authorized interim, interim  
8 budget, or administrative committee legislative business or as otherwise provided by law, and with prior  
9 authorization of the appropriate funding authority, is entitled to: compensation and expenses as set forth in this  
10 section.

11 (1) A legislator participating remotely is entitled to a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate  
12 described in 5-2-301(1) for each 24-hour period.

13 (2) A legislator attending a meeting in person is entitled to the following compensation and  
14 expenses based on the number of round-trip miles from the legislator's residence to the meeting:

15 (a) for 100 miles or less:

16 (i) a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate described in 5-2-301(1) for each 24-hour period;

17 (ii) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503; and

18 (iii) a meal allowance for one midday meal as provided in 2-18-501;

19 (b) for more than 100 miles and less than 400 miles:

20 (i) a salary equal to two full days' pay at the rate described in 5-2-301(1);

21 (ii) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503;

22 (iii) a meal allowance for two morning meals, two midday meals, and two evening meals as  
23 provided in 2-18-501; and

24 (iv) two nights' lodging reimbursed at the prescribed maximum standard federal rate for each day  
25 for the location; or

26 (c) for 400 miles or more:

27 (i) a salary equal to three full days' pay at the rate described in 5-2-301(1);

28 (ii) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503;

1           (iii) a meal allowance for three morning meals, three midday meals, and three evening meals as  
2 provided in 2-18-501; and

3           (iv) two nights' lodging reimbursed at the prescribed maximum standard federal rate for each day  
4 for the location.

5           ~~(2) — expenses as provided in 2-18-501 and 2-18-502 ; and~~

6           ~~(3) — a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate described in 5-2-301 (1) for each 24-hour period~~  
7 ~~of time (from midnight to midnight), or portion of a 24-hour period, spent on authorized interim, interim budget,~~  
8 ~~or administrative committee legislative business or as otherwise provided by law. However, if~~

9           (3) For each additional consecutive day of legislative meetings or authorized legislative business,  
10 a legislator attending in person is entitled to the following additional compensation and expenses based on the  
11 number of round-trip miles from the legislator's residence to the meeting location:

12           (a) for 100 miles or less:

13           (i) a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate described in 5-2-301(1);

14           (ii) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503; and

15           (iii) a meal allowance for one morning meal, one midday meal, and one evening meal as provided  
16 in 2-18-501; or

17           (b) for more than 100 miles:

18           (i) a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate described in 5-2-301(1);

19           (ii) a meal allowance for one morning meal, one midday meal, and one evening meal as provided  
20 in 2-18-501; and

21           (iii) an additional night's lodging reimbursed at the prescribed maximum standard federal rate for  
22 each day for the location.

23           (4) If time spent for business other than authorized legislative interim, interim budget, or  
24 administrative committee business or business related to 5-11-305 results in lengthening a legislator's stay  
25 away from home into an additional 24-hour period, the legislator may not be compensated for the additional  
26 day."

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28           NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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69th Legislature 2025

LC 0530

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- END -