

# HB2969



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

**HB2969**

Introduced 2/19/2021, by Rep. Thomas Morrison

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

25 ILCS 115/4

from Ch. 63, par. 15.1

Amends the General Assembly Compensation Act. Reduces the district office allowance of members of the General Assembly by 10%. Effective immediately.

LRB102 14932 RJF 20287 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  
5 amended 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 and  
8 through the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd  
9 General Assembly, each member of the House of Representatives  
10 is authorized to approve the expenditure of not more than  
11 \$61,000 per year and each member of the Senate is authorized to  
12 approve the expenditure of not more than \$73,000 per year to  
13 pay for "personal services", "contractual services",  
14 "commodities", "printing", "travel", "operation of automotive  
15 equipment", "telecommunications services", as defined in the  
16 State Finance Act, and the compensation of one or more  
17 legislative assistants authorized pursuant to this Section, in  
18 connection with his or her legislative duties and not in  
19 connection with any political campaign. Beginning on the  
20 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General  
21 Assembly, each member of the House of Representatives is  
22 authorized to expend 90% of the amount that a member of the  
23 House of Representatives was authorized to expend for these

1 purposes on the day before the effective date of this  
2 amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, and each member  
3 of the Senate is authorized to expend 90% of the amount that a  
4 member of the Senate was authorized to expend for these  
5 purposes on the day before the effective date of this  
6 amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

7       On July 1, 2002 and on July 1 of each year thereafter, the  
8 amount authorized per year under this Section for each member  
9 of the Senate and each member of the House of Representatives  
10 shall be increased by a percentage increase equivalent to the  
11 lesser of (i) the increase in the designated cost of living  
12 index or (ii) 5%. The designated cost of living index is the  
13 index known as the "Employment Cost Index, Wages and Salaries,  
14 By Occupation and Industry Groups: State and Local Government  
15 Workers: Public Administration" as published by the Bureau of  
16 Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor for the  
17 calendar year immediately preceding the year of the respective  
18 July 1st increase date. The increase shall be added to the then  
19 current amount, and the adjusted amount so determined shall be  
20 the annual amount beginning July 1 of the increase year until  
21 July 1 of the next year, subject to any adjustment required by  
22 this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly. No increase  
23 under this provision shall be less than zero.

24       A member may purchase office equipment if the member  
25 certifies to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the  
26 House, as applicable, that the purchase price, whether paid in

1 lump sum or installments, amounts to less than would be  
2 charged for renting or leasing the equipment over its  
3 anticipated useful life. All such equipment must be purchased  
4 through the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House,  
5 as applicable, for proper identification and verification of  
6 purchase.

7 Each member of the General Assembly is authorized to  
8 employ one or more legislative assistants, who shall be solely  
9 under the direction and control of that member, for the  
10 purpose of assisting the member in the performance of his or  
11 her official duties. A legislative assistant may be employed  
12 pursuant to this Section as a full-time employee, part-time  
13 employee, or contractual employee, at the discretion of the  
14 member. If employed as a State employee, a legislative  
15 assistant shall receive employment benefits on the same terms  
16 and conditions that apply to other employees of the General  
17 Assembly. Each member shall adopt and implement personnel  
18 policies for legislative assistants under his or her direction  
19 and control relating to work time requirements, documentation  
20 for reimbursement for travel on official State business,  
21 compensation, and the earning and accrual of State benefits  
22 for those legislative assistants who may be eligible to  
23 receive those benefits. The policies shall also require  
24 legislative assistants to periodically submit time sheets  
25 documenting, in quarter-hour increments, the time spent each  
26 day on official State business. The policies shall require the

1 time sheets to be submitted on paper, electronically, or both  
2 and to be maintained in either paper or electronic format by  
3 the applicable fiscal office for a period of at least 2 years.  
4 Contractual employees may satisfy the time sheets requirement  
5 by complying with the terms of their contract, which shall  
6 provide for a means of compliance with this requirement. A  
7 member may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph by  
8 adopting and implementing the personnel policies promulgated  
9 by that member's legislative leader under the State Officials  
10 and Employees Ethics Act with respect to that member's  
11 legislative assistants.

12 As used in this Section the term "personal services" shall  
13 include contributions of the State under the Federal Insurance  
14 Contribution Act and under Article 14 of the Illinois Pension  
15 Code. As used in this Section the term "contractual services"  
16 shall not include improvements to real property unless those  
17 improvements are the obligation of the lessee under the lease  
18 agreement. Beginning July 1, 1989, as used in the Section, the  
19 term "travel" shall be limited to travel in connection with a  
20 member's legislative duties and not in connection with any  
21 political campaign. Beginning on the effective date of this  
22 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, as used in this  
23 Section, the term "printing" includes, but is not limited to,  
24 newsletters, brochures, certificates, congratulatory  
25 mailings, greeting or welcome messages, anniversary or  
26 birthday cards, and congratulations for prominent achievement

1 cards. As used in this Section, the term "printing" includes  
2 fees for non-substantive resolutions charged by the Clerk of  
3 the House of Representatives under subsection (c-5) of Section  
4 1 of the Legislative Materials Act. No newsletter or brochure  
5 that is paid for, in whole or in part, with funds provided  
6 under this Section may be printed or mailed during a period  
7 beginning February 1 of the year of a general primary election  
8 and ending the day after the general primary election and  
9 during a period beginning September 1 of the year of a general  
10 election and ending the day after the general election, except  
11 that such a newsletter or brochure may be mailed during those  
12 times if it is mailed to a constituent in response to that  
13 constituent's inquiry concerning the needs of that constituent  
14 or questions raised by that constituent. Nothing in this  
15 Section shall be construed to authorize expenditures for  
16 lodging and meals while a member is in attendance at sessions  
17 of the General Assembly.

18 Any utility bill for service provided to a member's  
19 district office for a period including portions of 2  
20 consecutive fiscal years may be paid from funds appropriated  
21 for such expenditure in either fiscal year.

22 If a vacancy occurs in the office of Senator or  
23 Representative in the General Assembly, any office equipment  
24 in the possession of the vacating member shall transfer to the  
25 member's successor; if the successor does not want such  
26 equipment, it shall be transferred to the Secretary of the

1 Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case  
2 may be, and if not wanted by other members of the General  
3 Assembly then to the Department of Central Management Services  
4 for treatment as surplus property under the State Property  
5 Control Act. Each member, on or before June 30th of each year,  
6 shall conduct an inventory of all equipment purchased pursuant  
7 to this Act. Such inventory shall be filed with the Secretary  
8 of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, as the case may be.  
9 Whenever a vacancy occurs, the Secretary of the Senate or the  
10 Clerk of the House, as the case may be, shall conduct an  
11 inventory of equipment purchased.

12 In the event that a member leaves office during his or her  
13 term, any unexpended or unobligated portion of the allowance  
14 granted under this Section shall lapse. The vacating member's  
15 successor shall be granted an allowance in an amount, rounded  
16 to the nearest dollar, computed by dividing the annual  
17 allowance by 365 and multiplying the quotient by the number of  
18 days remaining in the fiscal year.

19 From any appropriation for the purposes of this Section  
20 for a fiscal year which overlaps 2 General Assemblies, no more  
21 than 1/2 of the annual allowance per member may be spent or  
22 encumbered by any member of either the outgoing or incoming  
23 General Assembly, except that any member of the incoming  
24 General Assembly who was a member of the outgoing General  
25 Assembly may encumber or spend any portion of his annual  
26 allowance within the fiscal year.

1           The appropriation for the annual allowances permitted by  
2 this Section shall be included in an appropriation to the  
3 President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives for their respective members. The President of  
5 the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall voucher for  
6 payment individual members' expenditures from their annual  
7 office allowances to the State Comptroller, subject to the  
8 authority of the Comptroller under Section 9 of the State  
9 Comptroller Act.

10           Nothing in this Section prohibits the expenditure of  
11 personal funds or the funds of a political committee  
12 controlled by an officeholder to defray the customary and  
13 reasonable expenses of an officeholder in connection with the  
14 performance of governmental and public service functions.

15           (Source: P.A. 95-6, eff. 6-20-07; 96-555, eff. 8-18-09;  
16 96-886, eff. 1-1-11.)

17           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
18 becoming law.