



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

**HB1264**

Introduced 02/08/11, by Rep. Keith Farnham

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

25 ILCS 115/4

from Ch. 63, par. 15.1

Amends the General Assembly Compensation Act. Decreases the base allowance for House members to \$54,900 and Senate members to \$65,700 beginning July 1, 2011 (instead of \$61,000 for House members and \$73,000 for Senate members beginning July 1, 2001). Provides that beginning July 1, 2011, members of the General Assembly are prohibited from receiving and shall not receive any annual percentage increase in their office allowances based on a cost of living adjustment or a fixed amount. Effective immediately.

LRB097 06476 RLJ 46559 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 amended  
5 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, 2011 ~~2001~~,  
8 each member of the House of Representatives is authorized to  
9 approve the expenditure of not more than \$54,900 ~~\$61,000~~ per  
10 year and each member of the Senate is authorized to approve the  
11 expenditure of not more than \$65,700 ~~\$73,000~~ per year to pay  
12 for "personal services", "contractual services",  
13 "commodities", "printing", "travel", "operation of automotive  
14 equipment", "telecommunications services", as defined in the  
15 State Finance Act, and the compensation of one or more  
16 legislative assistants authorized pursuant to this Section, in  
17 connection with his or her legislative duties and not in  
18 connection with any political campaign. On July 1, 2002 and on  
19 July 1 of each year thereafter through July 1, 2010, the amount  
20 authorized per year under this Section for each member of the  
21 Senate and each member of the House of Representatives shall be  
22 increased by a percentage increase equivalent to the lesser of  
23 (i) the increase in the designated cost of living index or (ii)

1 5%. The designated cost of living index is the index known as  
2 the "Employment Cost Index, Wages and Salaries, By Occupation  
3 and Industry Groups: State and Local Government Workers: Public  
4 Administration" as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics  
5 of the U.S. Department of Labor for the calendar year  
6 immediately preceding the year of the respective July 1st  
7 increase date. The increase shall be added to the then current  
8 amount, and the adjusted amount so determined shall be the  
9 annual amount beginning July 1 of the increase year until July  
10 1 of the next year. No increase under this provision shall be  
11 less than zero. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section  
12 to the contrary, beginning July 1, 2011, members of the General  
13 Assembly are prohibited from receiving and shall not receive  
14 any annual percentage increase in their office allowances based  
15 on a cost of living adjustment or a fixed amount.

16 A member may purchase office equipment if the member  
17 certifies to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the  
18 House, as applicable, that the purchase price, whether paid in  
19 lump sum or installments, amounts to less than would be charged  
20 for renting or leasing the equipment over its anticipated  
21 useful life. All such equipment must be purchased through the  
22 Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, as  
23 applicable, for proper identification and verification of  
24 purchase.

25 Each member of the General Assembly is authorized to employ  
26 one or more legislative assistants, who shall be solely under

1 the direction and control of that member, for the purpose of  
2 assisting the member in the performance of his or her official  
3 duties. A legislative assistant may be employed pursuant to  
4 this Section as a full-time employee, part-time employee, or  
5 contractual employee, at the discretion of the member. If  
6 employed as a State employee, a legislative assistant shall  
7 receive employment benefits on the same terms and conditions  
8 that apply to other employees of the General Assembly. Each  
9 member shall adopt and implement personnel policies for  
10 legislative assistants under his or her direction and control  
11 relating to work time requirements, documentation for  
12 reimbursement for travel on official State business,  
13 compensation, and the earning and accrual of State benefits for  
14 those legislative assistants who may be eligible to receive  
15 those benefits. The policies shall also require legislative  
16 assistants to periodically submit time sheets documenting, in  
17 quarter-hour increments, the time spent each day on official  
18 State business. The policies shall require the time sheets to  
19 be submitted on paper, electronically, or both and to be  
20 maintained in either paper or electronic format by the  
21 applicable fiscal office for a period of at least 2 years.  
22 Contractual employees may satisfy the time sheets requirement  
23 by complying with the terms of their contract, which shall  
24 provide for a means of compliance with this requirement. A  
25 member may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph by  
26 adopting and implementing the personnel policies promulgated

1 by that member's legislative leader under the State Officials  
2 and Employees Ethics Act with respect to that member's  
3 legislative assistants.

4 As used in this Section the term "personal services" shall  
5 include contributions of the State under the Federal Insurance  
6 Contribution Act and under Article 14 of the Illinois Pension  
7 Code. As used in this Section the term "contractual services"  
8 shall not include improvements to real property unless those  
9 improvements are the obligation of the lessee under the lease  
10 agreement. Beginning July 1, 1989, as used in the Section, the  
11 term "travel" shall be limited to travel in connection with a  
12 member's legislative duties and not in connection with any  
13 political campaign. Beginning on the effective date of this  
14 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, as used in this  
15 Section, the term "printing" includes, but is not limited to,  
16 newsletters, brochures, certificates, congratulatory mailings,  
17 greeting or welcome messages, anniversary or birthday cards,  
18 and congratulations for prominent achievement cards. As used in  
19 this Section, the term "printing" includes fees for  
20 non-substantive resolutions charged by the Clerk of the House  
21 of Representatives under subsection (c-5) of Section 1 of the  
22 Legislative Materials Act. No newsletter or brochure that is  
23 paid for, in whole or in part, with funds provided under this  
24 Section may be printed or mailed during a period beginning  
25 February 1 of the year of a general primary election and ending  
26 the day after the general primary election and during a period

1 beginning September 1 of the year of a general election and  
2 ending the day after the general election, except that such a  
3 newsletter or brochure may be mailed during those times if it  
4 is mailed to a constituent in response to that constituent's  
5 inquiry concerning the needs of that constituent or questions  
6 raised by that constituent. Nothing in this Section shall be  
7 construed to authorize expenditures for lodging and meals while  
8 a member is in attendance at sessions of the General Assembly.

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

13 If a vacancy occurs in the office of Senator or  
14 Representative in the General Assembly, any office equipment in  
15 the possession of the vacating member shall transfer to the  
16 member's successor; if the successor does not want such  
17 equipment, it shall be transferred to the Secretary of the  
18 Senate or Clerk of the House of Representatives, as the case  
19 may be, and if not wanted by other members of the General  
20 Assembly then to the Department of Central Management Services  
21 for treatment as surplus property under the State Property  
22 Control Act. Each member, on or before June 30th of each year,  
23 shall conduct an inventory of all equipment purchased pursuant  
24 to this Act. Such inventory shall be filed with the Secretary  
25 of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, as the case may be.  
26 Whenever a vacancy occurs, the Secretary of the Senate or the

1 Clerk of the House, as the case may be, shall conduct an  
2 inventory of equipment purchased.

3 In the event that a member leaves office during his or her  
4 term, any unexpended or unobligated portion of the allowance  
5 granted under this Section shall lapse. The vacating member's  
6 successor shall be granted an allowance in an amount, rounded  
7 to the nearest dollar, computed by dividing the annual  
8 allowance by 365 and multiplying the quotient by the number of  
9 days remaining in the fiscal year.

10 From any appropriation for the purposes of this Section for  
11 a fiscal year which overlaps 2 General Assemblies, no more than  
12 1/2 of the annual allowance per member may be spent or  
13 encumbered by any member of either the outgoing or incoming  
14 General Assembly, except that any member of the incoming  
15 General Assembly who was a member of the outgoing General  
16 Assembly may encumber or spend any portion of his annual  
17 allowance within the fiscal year.

18 The appropriation for the annual allowances permitted by  
19 this Section shall be included in an appropriation to the  
20 President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives for their respective members. The President of  
22 the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall voucher for  
23 payment individual members' expenditures from their annual  
24 office allowances to the State Comptroller, subject to the  
25 authority of the Comptroller under Section 9 of the State  
26 Comptroller Act.

1           Nothing in this Section prohibits the expenditure of  
2           personal funds or the funds of a political committee controlled  
3           by an officeholder to defray the customary and reasonable  
4           expenses of an officeholder in connection with the performance  
5           of governmental and public service functions.

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

8           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
9           becoming law.