



30th Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Council Committee

Chairman:

Rep. Sam Kito
State Capitol 403
907-465-4766

Vice Chairman:

Sen. Bert Stedman

House Members:

Rep. Matt Claman
Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Rep. David Guttenberg
Rep. Charisse Millett
Rep. Dan Ortiz
Rep. Louise Stutes

Alternate:

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Drummond
Rep. David Eastman

Senate Members:

Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Sen. Pete Kelly
Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sen. Cathy Giessel
Sen. Peter Micciche
Sen. John Coghill

Alternate:

Sen. Mia Costello

Session & Interim:

State Capitol 403
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-4766

Committee Aide:

Crystal Koeneman
State Capitol 403
907-465-5050

To: Members of Legislative Council

From: Sam Kito III, Chair

Date: April 20, 2018

Subject: Legislative Council Travel and Per Diem Policy

The State of Alaska Officers Compensation Commission (ASOCC) provided recommendations to the legislature in the form of a final report submitted on January 17, 2018. This report provided a single recommendation to eliminate long-term per diem for legislators residing within 50 miles of the session convening location.

The Senate Finance committee also included language in the FY2019 operating budget (HB 286) that has been agreed to in Conference Committee, providing the following intent language:

“It is the intent of the legislature that the legislative council adopt a flat per diem rate for the first session of the 31st Alaska legislature”

Alaska statute provides that

Sec. 39.23.580. Policy of the legislature. It is the policy of the legislature that the commission recommend an equitable rate and form of compensation, benefits, and allowances for legislators.

In my review of the ASOCC recommendation, the current operating budget action, and legislative compensation in general, I have determined that the provisions of AS 39.23.580 have not been met in the recommendation provided by the ASOCC due to the inequity of compensation between legislators residing outside of 50 miles from the legislative convening location, and all other legislators. The recommendation made by ASOCC, results in legislators outside of Juneau receiving over \$24,000 in tax-free compensation during the regular 90-day session. Those per diem payments provide compensation in excess of what is necessary to live in Juneau for three months, and can exceed \$60,000 for years with three or more special sessions such as we saw in 2017.

In order to provide compensation equity during the regular 90-day session, extended 120-day session, and special sessions, I have attached the modified Session Per Diem policy that acknowledges the recommendation from the ASOCC eliminating session per diem payments to legislators who live within 50 miles of their primary residence. The proposed policy also includes a reduction of 75% for legislators residing outside of 50 miles from the convening location, and provides for the per diem amount to be flat throughout the year in acknowledgement of the conference committee action. The proposed policy revision also requires legislators to be in Juneau to receive session per diem payments.

MOTION: I move and ask unanimous consent, that the Legislative Council adopt the revised Legislative Council Travel and Per Diem Policy as presented to Legislative Council.