

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Affairs Agency

Office of the Executive Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. David Guttenberg
Chair, Legislative Council

FROM: Jessica Geary 
Executive Director

DATE: September 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Legislative Council Travel & Per Diem Policy

Per AS 24.10.130 Legislative Council sets the travel and per diem policy. Currently, session per diem is paid at the federal rate, which is set by the Department of Defense and fluctuates due to changes in season and cost of living increases. During the 30th Legislature, the per diem rate increased by 23% from \$213 to \$275 per day.

On September 1, 2018, the daily rate increased again to \$302, which would be in effect for the 31st Legislature. As many of you are aware, Legislative Council set per diem at a flat rate of \$275 for the Second Session of the 30th Legislature only, so if Council takes no action prior to the 31st Legislature, the rate will be \$302 per day. The FY19 budget is based on a session per diem rate of \$275.

I propose setting a flat per diem rate for all legislative sessions (regular, extended, and special); with consideration of the following options:

- Option 1 - \$213 per day (30th Legislature original rate)
- Option 2 - \$263 per day (average of \$213, \$275, and \$302)
- Option 3 - \$275 per day (FY19 budgeted per diem rate)

I am happy to answer questions from members.

Attachment: Draft Travel and Per Diem Policy Proposals