



# 30<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature

## Legislative Council Committee

**Chairman:**

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

**To:** Members of Legislative Council

**From:** Sam Kito III, Chair

**Date:** April 20, 2018

**Subject:** Legislative Council Travel and Per Diem Policy

**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:**

Rep. Harriet  
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

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.