

CHAPTER 312

[Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 2268]

STATE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES—SUBSISTENCE AND LODGING
ALLOWANCES—MILEAGE RATES

AN ACT Relating to state government; amending section 43.03.050, chapter 8, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 94, chapter 34, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 43.03.050; amending section 43.03.060, chapter 8, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 95, chapter 34, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 43.03.060; adding new sections to chapter 43.03 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 43.03.050, chapter 8, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 94, chapter 34, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 43.03.050 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The director of the office of program planning and fiscal management shall prescribe ~~((for all state agencies per diem rates of allowance, not exceeding twenty-five dollars in lieu of))~~ reasonable allowances to cover reasonable and necessary subsistence and lodging ~~((to))~~ expenses for elective and appointive officials and state employees while engaged on official business away from their designated posts of duty ~~((, but within the state of Washington, and not exceeding thirty-five dollars per day while engaged on official business elsewhere))~~. The director of the office of program planning and fiscal management may ~~((within the limits established herein))~~ prescribe and regulate the ~~((per diem rates to be allowed))~~ allowances provided in lieu of subsistence and lodging expenses and may prescribe the conditions under which reimbursement for subsistence and lodging may be allowed. The schedule of allowances adopted by the office of program planning and fiscal management may include special allowances for foreign travel and other travel involving higher than usual costs for subsistence and lodging.

(2) Those persons appointed to serve without compensation on any state board, commission, or committee, if entitled to ~~((reimbursement))~~ payment of travel expenses, shall be ~~((reimbursed))~~ paid pursuant to ~~((a))~~ special ~~((schedule at the daily))~~ per diem rates prescribed in accordance with subsection (1) of this section by the office of program planning and fiscal management ~~((, for each day or portion thereof spent on official business of the board, commission, or committee))~~.

(3) The initial schedule of allowances prescribed by the director under the terms of this section and any subsequent increases in any maximum allowance or special allowances for areas of higher than usual costs shall be subject to legislative approval.

Sec. 2. Section 43.03.060, chapter 8, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 95, chapter 34, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 43.03.060 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Whenever it becomes necessary for an elective or appointive official or employee of the state to travel away from his designated post of duty while engaged on official business, and it is found to be more advantageous and economical to the state that travel be by a privately-owned vehicle rather than a common carrier or a state-owned or operated vehicle, a mileage rate not to exceed ~~((thirteen cents a~~

~~mile shall be allowed~~) the rate established by the director of the office of program planning and fiscal management shall be allowed. The maximum rate established by the director shall be based on the estimated cost of using a privately-owned vehicle on state business.

(2) The director of the office of program planning and fiscal management may ~~((within the limits established in this section))~~ prescribe and regulate the specific mileage rate or other allowance for the use of privately-owned vehicles or common carriers on official business and the conditions under which reimbursement of transportation costs may be allowed: PROVIDED, That reimbursement or other payment for transportation expenses of any employee or appointive official of the state shall be based on the method deemed most advantageous and economical to the state.

(3) The initial maximum mileage rate established by the director of the office of program planning and fiscal management pursuant to this section and any subsequent changes thereto shall be subject to legislative approval.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 43.03 RCW a new section to read as follows:

"Legislative approval" for purposes of RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 both as now or hereafter amended and sections 3 and 4 of this 1977 amendatory act shall consist of consultation with and a favorable vote by the senate ways and means committee and the house of representatives appropriations committee during times when the legislature is in session or consultation with and a favorable vote by the legislative budget committee during periods when the legislature is not in session or has been in recess for three or more days.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 43.03 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The allowances prescribed pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 as now or hereafter amended may be paid as reimbursements to individuals for subsistence and lodging expenses during official travel. Alternatively, amounts not exceeding those allowances may be paid directly to appropriate suppliers of subsistence and lodging, when more economical and advantageous to the state, under general rules and regulations adopted by the director of the office of program planning and fiscal management with the advice of the state auditor. Payments to suppliers for subsistence and lodging expenses of individuals in travel status shall not result in a cost to the state in excess of what would be payable by way of reimbursements to the individuals involved.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately except that any new schedule of allowances under either RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now or hereafter amended shall not be effective until July 1, 1977 or later.

Passed the Senate June 11, 1977.

Passed the House June 10, 1977.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 21, 1977.