

Handout #1

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2015 State Legislator Compensation

5/14/2015

2015 State Legislator Compensation and Living Expense Allowances During Session

The table below lists the legislator compensation and per diem rates for all 50 state legislatures. Per diem expenses include food and accommodation for legislators while conducting legislative business. NCSL does not rank legislative salaries from highest to lowest.

State	Legislator Compensation and Per Diem Rates	
	Base Salary	Session Per Diem Rate
Alabama	Alabama Legislators receive a taxable compensation equal to the Alabama median annual household income, as ascertained and adjusted yearly by the State Personnel Board. The State Personnel Board met on Oct. 22, 2014, and set the median annual household income amount at \$42,849.00. This current median annual household amount went into effect on November 5, 2014 and is effective until December 31, 2015.	Alabama Legislators no longer receive a set per diem rate while in session. Legislators are reimbursed for in-state travel expenses which include mileage and per diem in accordance with rates and procedures applicable to state employees. All out of district reimbursable travel must be for official business and in the interests of the state or in the performance of official duties, as approved by the applicable Presiding Officer.
Alaska	\$50,400/year	\$223 or \$249/day (depending on the time of year) tied to the federal rate. Legislators who reside in the Capitol area receive 75% of the Federal rate.
Arizona	\$24,000/year	\$35/day for the first 120 days of the regular session and for special sessions and \$10/day thereafter. Members residing outside Maricopa County receive an additional \$25/day for the first 120 days of the regular session and for special sessions and an additional \$10/day thereafter (V). Set by statute.
Arkansas	\$39,400/year	\$150/day (V) plus mileage; tied to the federal rate.
California	\$97,197/year	\$168/day for each day in session.
Colorado	\$30,000/year	\$99/day for members living outside Denver (V). Set by the legislature; \$45/day for members who live 50 or fewer miles from the Capitol.
Connecticut	Salaries range from \$28,000 for rank and file to \$38,689 for Senate President and House Speaker	No per diem is paid. Mileage is .575/mile.
Delaware	\$44,541/year	No per diem is paid.
Florida	\$29,697/year	\$129/day based on the number of days in session. Travel vouchers are filed to substantiate.
Georgia	\$17,342/year	\$173/day (U); set by the Legislative Services Committee.
Hawaii	Speaker and President: \$66,504/year. Members: \$59,004/year	\$150/day for members living outside Oahu during session; \$10/day for members living on Oahu.
Idaho	\$16,684 annually; \$20,438 for Speaker & Pro Tem	\$129/day for members establishing a second residence in Boise; \$49/day if no second residence is established and up to \$25/day travel (V). Set by

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the compensation commission.

Illinois	\$67,836/year; members are required to forfeit one day of compensation per month	\$111/per session day.
Indiana	\$24,140.16/year	\$159/day (U); tied to the federal rate.
Iowa	\$25,000/year	\$148/day (U); \$111/day for Polk County legislators (U). Set by the legislature to coincide with the federal rate. State mileage rates apply.
Kansas	\$88.66/day (C)	\$129/day.
Kentucky	\$188.22/day	\$141.90/day
Louisiana	\$16,800/year plus additional \$6,000/year (U) expense allowance	\$150/day (U); tied to the federal rate.
Maine	\$14,074/year for first regular session; \$9,982/year for second regular session. Annual cost of living adjustments apply. In addition, legislators receive a constituent service allowance (\$2,000/year for Senators and \$1,500/year for Representatives).	\$38/day for lodging, or mileage and tolls in lieu of housing (at a rate of \$0.44/mile up to \$38/day) plus \$32/day for meals. Set by statute.
Maryland	\$45,207 / year for regular members; \$58,718 for President & Speaker	Meals: \$45 / day; mileage: \$.575/ mile; lodging: \$100/ day
Massachusetts	\$60,032.60/year	\$10–\$100/day, depending on distance from the State House (V); set by the legislature.
Michigan	\$71,685/year	\$10,800/year expense allowance for session and interim (V); set by the compensation commission.
Minnesota	\$31,140.90/year	\$86/day for senators and \$66/day for representatives.
Mississippi	\$10,000/year	\$129/day.
Missouri	\$35,915/year	\$103.20/day (U); tied to the federal rate. Verification of per diem is by roll call.
Montana	\$82.64/day (L)	\$112.85/day (U).
Nebraska	\$12,000/year	\$129/day for members residing 50 miles or more from the Capitol; \$46/day for members inside the 50-mile radius. Mileage is paid at the rate of \$.56
Nevada	\$146.29/day for maximum of 60 days of session The members of the 78 th Regular Session pledged to voluntarily take a 2.3 percent reduction of their salaries for the session. The reduction does not apply to those who did not vote in favor of the voluntary reduction.	\$152/per day.
New Hampshire	\$200/two-year term	No per diem is paid.
New Jersey	\$49,000/year; President of the Senate and Assembly Speaker earn an additional 1/3 (\$65,333)	No per diem is paid.
New Mexico	None	\$165/day (V); tied to the federal rate.
New York	\$79,500/year	\$172/full day (including overnight); \$61/partial day.
North Carolina	\$13,951/year Member; \$17,048/year Majority & Minority Leader; \$21,739/year Deputy & Speaker Pro Tempore; \$38,151/year President Pro Tempore & Speaker	\$104/day (U) set by statute. \$0.29 per mile set by statute. Monthly expense allowance: \$559/month, Member; \$666/month Majority & Minority Leader; \$836/month Deputy Pro Tempore & Speaker Pro Tempore; \$1,413/month President Pro Tempore & Speaker.



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North Dakota	\$167/day during legislative sessions (C)	Lodging reimbursement up to \$1,569 per month (V).
Ohio	\$60,584/year	No per diem is paid.
Oklahoma	\$38,400/year	\$160/day (U); tied to the federal rate.
Oregon	\$23,052/year	\$129/day (U); tied to the federal rate
Pennsylvania	\$85,338.65/year	\$159/day.
Rhode Island	\$15,171/year	No per diem is paid.
	Per Article VI, Section 3 of the Rhode Island Constitution, the rate of compensation is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living, and the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House are compensated at an annual rate of double that of other senators and representatives.	
	Legislators receive mileage.	
South Carolina	\$10,400/year	\$140/day for meals and housing for each statewide session day and committee meeting; tied to the federal rate.
South Dakota	\$6,000/session; \$129/day for interim committees	\$129/legislative day (U); set by the legislature.
Tennessee	\$20,884/year	\$198/legislative day (U); tied to federal rate.
Texas	\$7,200/year	\$190/day (U); set by ethics commission.
Utah	\$273/day (C)	Up to \$100 plus tax/calendar day (V) for lodging reimbursement, tied to in-state travel reimbursement lodging rate for Salt Lake City metropolitan area; up to \$39/date meal reimbursement (V), tied to in-state travel meal reimbursement rates (includes tax and tips).
		(mileage is also reimbursed at the state rate – currently it is .56 per mile)
Vermont	\$676.56/week during the legislative session only	\$110/day for lodging (overnight stay) or \$61/day for meals; mileage.
Virginia	\$18,000/year for the Senate; \$17,640/year for the House	\$180/day for senators; \$179/day for House members.
Washington	\$42,106/year	\$120/day.
West Virginia	\$20,000/year	\$131/day during session (U); set by the compensation commission.
Wisconsin	\$50,950/year	Per diem authorized under s. 13.123 (1), Wis Statutes, and Joint Rule 85. Under s. 20.916(8) Wis Statutes, the Joint Committee on Employment Relations establishes the maximum amount at 90% of the federal per diem rate for Madison, which is \$153. The leadership of each house then determines, within that maximum, what amount to authorize for the session.
		Wisconsin Senate - Current authorized amount is up to \$88 per day (\$44 per day for legislators living in Dane County). This rate is 64% of the maximum per diem rate for Madison.
		Wisconsin Assembly - Current authorized amount is up to \$138 per day for members staying overnight on legislative business, and up to \$69 per day when conducting legislative business and not

staying overnight. The maximum number of per diem that can be claimed per year is 153 days. This overnight rate is the maximum allowed of the per diem rate for Madison.

Wyoming	\$150/day during session	\$109/day (V), including travel days for those outside of Cheyenne; set by the legislature.
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Source: National Conference of State Legislatures 2015

L = Legislative day
C = Calendar day
(V) Vouchered (U) Unvouchered

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