

HOUSE BILL NO. 693

INTRODUCED BY F. MANDEVILLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT OF STATE EMPLOYEE EXPENSES WHEN ACCOMPANYING AN ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Reimbursement of state employee expenses when accompanying elected public officer. (1) If an elected public officer engages in political fundraising or other electioneering activities outside the state and a state employee accompanies the elected public officer, the elected public officer individually or the elected officer's political committee must reimburse the state for any taxpayer-funded expenses associated with the accompanying state employee no later than 90 days after the incursion of the expense.

(2) Expenses to be reimbursed under this section include salary and benefits, airfare, lodging, meals, and any other reasonable travel-related, state-paid expenses incurred by the state employee while accompanying the elected public official.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Electioneering activity" means activity that actively promotes support of or opposition to a political party, a partisan candidate, or a state or federal political campaign. Electioneering activity may include but is not limited to political fundraising, political-related meetings, political rallies, public candidate forums, political speeches, town halls for candidates, media events, interviews, voter registration efforts, and political conferences.

(b) "Political fundraising" means raising funds for or against a candidate, political committee, or political party.

(c) "Public officer" has the meaning provided in 2-2-102.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 35, part 2, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.



