

1 H.244

2 Introduced by Representatives Klein of East Montpelier and Cheney of

3 Norwich

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Finance; fees; state employees; personal expenses when away from

7 home; mileage reimbursement; limitation

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to limit the total

9 annual appropriation for state employee mileage reimbursement.

10 An act relating to limiting the total annual appropriation for state employee
11 mileage reimbursement

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

14 (a) Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1261, unless otherwise provided, all persons in
15 the employ of the State when away from home and office on official duties
16 shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred for travel, and the
17 reimbursement shall be paid out of the annual appropriation made for the
18 support of their respective departments.

19 (b)(1) During Fiscal Year 2012, the State reimbursed 4,507 state employees
20 for the 8,453,265 miles they drove in their personal vehicles in the fiscal year.

1 (2) Mileage reimbursement is based on collective bargaining pursuant to
2 32 V.S.A. § 1261, which in turn is based on the federal reimbursement rate.
3 The federal reimbursement rate during Fiscal Year 2012 was \$0.51 per mile as
4 of January 1, 2011, and it increased to \$0.555 per mile on April 17, 2012.

5 (3) In Fiscal Year 2012, based on the number of miles driven and the
6 rate of mileage reimbursement, the State spent \$4,356,793.00 in reimbursing
7 state employees for their miles driven.

8 (c) The budget for Fiscal Year 2013 included \$3,910,237.00 for mileage
9 reimbursement.

10 (d) The federal mileage reimbursement rate increased to \$0.565 on
11 January 1, 2013.

12 (e) The Governor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014 includes
13 \$4,435,169.00 for mileage reimbursement.

14 Sec. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

15 (a) This act is intended to reduce the cost to the State of state employees'
16 mileage reimbursement by limiting each total annual appropriation to
17 \$2,217,584.50, which is equal to one-half the amount proposed for mileage
18 reimbursement for the Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

19 (b) Limiting the total annual appropriation for mileage reimbursement is
20 intended to encourage each department to consider establishing new policies or
21 initiatives, such as the use of electronic communication in lieu of physical

1 travel, which have the goal of reducing the need for department employees to
2 travel in their personal vehicles for official state duties.

3 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 1261 is amended to read:

4 § 1261. PERSONAL EXPENSES WHEN AWAY FROM HOME

5 (a)(1) Unless otherwise provided, all persons in the employ of the ~~state~~
6 State when away from home and office on official duties shall be reimbursed
7 for expenses necessarily incurred for travel, subsistence, postage, telephone,
8 telegraph, express, and incidentals which shall be paid out of the ~~biennial~~
9 annual appropriation made for the support of their respective departments.

10 Nothing contained ~~herein~~ in this section shall authorize payment to an
11 administrative official or employee, except the ~~governor~~ Governor, for travel
12 between his or her place of residence and office, or subsistence ~~thereat~~ there,
13 except for mileage reimbursement when an employee is called in and required
14 to work at any time other than continuously into his or her normally scheduled
15 shift.

16 (2) Compensation for subsistence, travel, and other expenses occurring
17 while conducting business for the ~~state~~ State shall be the subject of collective
18 bargaining as defined in ~~subsection 904(a) of Title 3~~ V.S.A. § 904(a), except
19 that in any fiscal year, the State's total annual appropriation for mileage
20 reimbursement shall not exceed \$2,217,584.50.

1 (3) Whenever it shall be necessary to effect the transfer of an employee
2 of the ~~state~~ State from one official station to another by direction of the head of
3 a department, ~~said~~ the employee shall be reimbursed for his or her reasonable
4 and necessary moving expenses actually incurred. However, the
5 reasonableness of said expense shall be determined by the ~~commissioner of~~
6 ~~finance and management~~ Commissioner of Finance and Management, and no
7 such expense shall be allowed unless the transfer is made for the convenience
8 of the ~~state~~ State and in no event where it is effected for the convenience or at
9 the request of the employee. ~~Said~~ Such an expense when allowed shall be paid
10 out of the ~~biennial~~ annual appropriation made for the support of the respective
11 departments.

12 (4) When an administrative official or employee works out of his or her
13 home in the usual course of employment rather than out of an office, he or she
14 shall be reimbursed for expenses in the same manner as though he or she were
15 working out of an office and for the purposes of this section, his or her home
16 shall be considered as his or her office.

17 (b) The ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration shall
18 prescribe standards to limit reimbursement for personal expenses and to
19 require approval of specific exceptions prior to the date of travel. These
20 standards shall apply equally to all categories of state employees, subject to the
21 collective bargaining agreement.

1 (c) Nothing in this section shall be taken to limit the authority of the
2 ~~commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety to approve
3 reimbursement for personal expenses in accordance with ~~section 1881 of Title~~
4 20 V.S.A. § 1881.

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.