

STATE OF MINNESOTA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND MEETING
NINETIETH SESSION

Rules and Legislative Administration
MINUTES

Representative Peppin, Chair of the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:08 A.M. on January 10, 2017, in the Basement Hearing Room of the State Office Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

Members present:

PEPPIN, Joyce, Chair
BAKER, Dave, Vice Chair
FENTON, Kelly
FLANAGAN, Peggy
FREIBERG, Mike
GUNTHER, Bob
HORTMAN, Melissa
KIEL, Debra
LESCH, John
MURPHY, Erin
O'DRISCOLL, Tim
O'NEILL, Marion
PELOWSKI, Gene
PUGH, Cindy
SMITH, Dennis
SWEDZINSKI, Chris

Members excused:

ALBRIGHT, Tony
APPLEBAUM, Jon
NASH, Jim

Representative Peppin called the meeting to order at 10:08 A.M. A quorum was present.

Representative Fenton moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2017. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

Representative Pelowski moved to approve 2017-R3, Resolution on Expense Reimbursement. Jim Reinholz, Controller of the Minnesota House of Representatives Budget and Accounting Department, testified on the resolution. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

Representative Joyce Peppin, Chair

Jynell Boulka, Committee Legislative Assistant

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES AND LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

2
3 **Resolution on Expense Reimbursement**

4
5 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration, that the
6 House Controller is authorized and directed to prepare and issue warrants in payment of living
7 expenses to each member of the House each calendar day of the sessions of the 90th Legislature.

8 PROVIDED FURTHER, that each member of the House whose home is over 50 miles
9 from the Capitol, as measured by the shortest of the more commonly traveled routes may be
10 reimbursed up to \$1,800 per month for the member's actual lodging expenses of the 90th
11 Legislature, but total reimbursement may not exceed \$32,400. The Speaker, Majority Leader,
12 Minority Leader, and Committee Chairs, whose home is over 50 miles from the Capitol, as
13 measured by the shortest of the more commonly traveled routes may be reimbursed up to \$1,800
14 per month for the member's actual lodging expenses of the 90th Legislature. The term "lodging
15 expenses" includes, in addition to rent, the following lodging-related expenses at the place of
16 lodging: furniture rental, local telephone, internet access service, basic media service, utilities,
17 renter's insurance, non-refundable fees, and parking. A member who is eligible for the monthly
18 lodging reimbursement and who enters into a lodging contract for the purpose of attending the
19 2017 regular session of the 90th Legislature is eligible to receive the monthly lodging
20 reimbursement beginning December 1, 2016, and ending December 31, 2018.

21 Each member requesting reimbursement must file the member's housing and furniture
22 rental contracts with House Budget and Accounting and must include a receipt or other
23 verification of payment, with each monthly request for reimbursement. Each member requesting
24 the lodging reimbursement must certify in writing to the House Controller, before the issuance of
25 the first monthly warrant for each of the sessions of the 90th Legislature, that he or she has
26 moved from the usual place of lodging and is eligible for the lodging reimbursement authorized
27 by this resolution. Members' lodging leases are nonpublic data. Members shall pay no more
28 than market rates when leasing commercial or noncommercial lodging units. Upon entering into

1 an agreement, the House Budget and Accounting Office may make payments directly to lessors
2 for session or interim lodging, furniture or parking for a member and direct payments are subject
3 to all the limits or requirements that apply to reimbursement of the comparable expenses under
4 this resolution.

5 During the sessions of the 90th Legislature, a member may be reimbursed for the expense
6 of overnight lodging in the vicinity of the Capitol Complex on a night when the member is
7 required to remain at the Capitol Complex to conduct legislative business or for reasons of
8 safety. The reimbursement may not exceed \$125.00 per night. The reimbursement request must
9 be in writing, accompanied by a receipt or other verification of payment, and approved by the
10 Speaker.

11 PROVIDED FURTHER, that each member of the House whose home is over 50 miles
12 from the State Capitol, as measured by the shortest of the more commonly traveled routes, may
13 be reimbursed for travel to and from the member's place of residence at the same rate per mile as
14 the standard federal mileage rate. Each member of the House who resides more than 125 miles
15 from the State Capitol may be reimbursed for the actual expense of air travel between his or her
16 place of residence and the State Capitol instead of actual mileage for the travel, upon
17 presentation of a voucher. If the member travels in a personal aircraft, the travel reimbursement
18 may not exceed the amount of reimbursement that would be payable for the trip by automobile.
19 During sessions, a qualifying member is entitled to this travel reimbursement upon request for
20 actual trips taken, not to exceed one round trip per week of a regular or special session. During
21 interims, this reimbursement is available to a qualifying member only for business at the Capitol
22 authorized and approved under the rules committee's Policy on the Payment of Per Diem Living
23 Expenses during Interims.

24 PROVIDED FURTHER, that when a member or employee is authorized to travel within
25 the state on legislative business and official duties of the office, reimbursement for lodging may
26 not exceed \$125.00 per night. However, when members or employees are attending a meeting or
27 conference within the state, they may be reimbursed up to \$135.00 per night at the site of the
28 meeting or conference.

1 PROVIDED FURTHER, that during the 2017 and 2018 interims of the 90th Legislature
2 each member of the House may receive, upon written request, travel reimbursement for
3 constituent service travel within the member's legislative district, within any county that is in
4 any part of the member's legislative district, or within any county that is adjacent to a county that
5 is in any part of the member's legislative district, up to a monthly maximum amount based upon
6 the actual size of the district. The maximum reimbursement must be computed at the standard
7 federal mileage rate per square mile per month, with a minimum allowable amount of \$100 and a
8 maximum allowable amount of \$850 per month. Members may receive an additional \$100
9 monthly travel reimbursement in excess of the maximum for each increment of 1,000 square
10 miles for which their district size exceeds 1,000 square miles. Reimbursements must be for
11 actual miles travelled and at the federal mileage rate.

12 PROVIDED FURTHER, that during the 2017 and 2018 sessions and during the interims
13 of the 90th Legislature, the Speaker's advance approval is required for per diem and
14 reimbursement of expenses for all out-of-state travel by a member or employee.

15 PROVIDED FURTHER, that during the 2017 and 2018 interims, a member of the House
16 who is traveling away from the member's home to conduct business authorized and approved
17 under the rules committee's Policy on the Payment of Per Diem Living Expenses During
18 Interims may be reimbursed for actual expenses in the same manner as House employees, except
19 as otherwise provided in this resolution. During the sessions of the 90th Legislature, a member
20 may be reimbursed for actual expenses for authorized travel on legislative business away from
21 the Capitol in the same manner as House employees, except as otherwise provided in this
22 resolution. The manner of authorization is as provided in the Policy on the Payment of Per Diem
23 Living Expenses during Interims. The reimbursement is in addition to per diem expense
24 allowances.

25 PROVIDED FURTHER, that during sessions and interims a member may not receive
26 reimbursement for food expenses on any day that the member receives per diem. If the House
27 provides or pays for a meal for the member, the cost of the meal must be deducted from the per
28 diem paid to the member.


1 PROVIDED FURTHER, that the members and members-elect who attended freshman
2 orientation, organizational caucuses and retreats, legislative orientation programs, and caucus
3 personnel committee meetings held in preparation for the 90th Legislative Session must be
4 reimbursed for actual expenses, upon request, in the same manner and in the same amounts as
5 legislators who attended interim meetings of legislative committees during the 89th Session.
6 Members-elect are not eligible for per diem allowances.

7 PROVIDED FURTHER, that each member of the House, upon their voluntary request,
8 must be paid per diem living expenses in an amount up to \$66 for each calendar day during the
9 sessions of the 90th Legislature and during the interims as authorized and approved under the
10 rules committee's Policy on the Payment of Per Diem Living Expenses during Interims.

Date:

1/10/17

Signed:



JOYCE PEPPIN, CHAIR