

# LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION

## 2023 SESSION PAYMENTS

As we approach the upcoming Legislative Session, the Legislative Financial Office (Capitol Room 154) would like to take a moment to provide you some important information. The purpose of this memo is to explain how salary, per diem and other payments are processed for legislators during session. You are welcome to stop by our office on the first floor with any additional questions.

All salary, per diem, mileage, and any other reimbursements will be paid every other week on the State of Montana payroll cycle. The 2023 payroll calendar is located at <https://leg.mt.gov/information-legislators/orientation/#cat3>. 5-2-301, MCA governs Legislator compensation while in Session.

### **SALARY**

- Salary is paid "in arrears." The first salary payment, for January 2-13, 2023 will be paid on January 25, 2023. Subsequent payments are made every two weeks thereafter.
- Legislators may serve for no salary. If you choose this, please contact Lesley Farry at 406-444-3201.

### **PER DIEM**

Per diem payments are paid "in advance," which means that, upon receipt of your weekly per diem, payment is through that day. You will receive payments bi-weekly, every other Wednesday (same day as salary "pay day"), either via a check or electronic funds transfer. Your first per diem payment will be on Jan. 11th (January 2 – 11, 2023).

### **ROUND TRIP MILEAGE**

For those legislators who live outside the Helena area and travel to the Capitol to attend session, your first round-trip is automatically processed (no claim form is necessary). You will receive your first session mileage payment (as well as any additional trips already submitted) on Jan. 11, 2023. In addition to the first payment, you may request three additional round trips. These payments are made on a reimbursement basis, paid after a trip home has been taken, and claim forms are required (available in RM 154). (Note: Legislators with a Helena or East Helena address are not eligible to receive mileage payments.)

### **CONSTITUENT SERVICES**

Upon passage of HB 1 ("The Feed Bill"), legislators can begin submitting requests for payment of the constituent services "primary" stipend payment of \$3,000. Our office will provide you with a form, listing multiple ways by which you may receive payment. Upon receipt of your election, payment will be processed with the next bi-weekly salary payment. (Note: This "primary" stipend payment is treated as taxable income under the Internal Revenue Code.)

### **OTHER PAYMENTS**

If you have recently submitted a claim for attendance of a legislative interim committee meeting, we are processing these claims with the next bi-weekly salary payment.