

**SB299 INTRODUCED**



1 SB299  
2 JQL2NNF-1  
3 By Senator Singleton  
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government  
5 First Read: 04-Apr-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would provide that the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may expend funds to purchase promotional items, items to recognize achievements, and to purchase meals for staff during training and while the Legislature is in session.

This bill would allow subordinate officers, directors, and employees of the Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency, and the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to be reimbursed up to \$500 for expenses paid by the employee in certain circumstances.

Under existing law, the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate have access to certain spaces within the Capitol building and any place outside of the Capitol when the Legislature meets outside the Capitol.

This bill would clarify the particular spaces to which the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency have access.

Under existing law, the Legislature has control



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29 of the usage of portions of streets adjacent to the  
30 State Capitol complex and grounds of the State Capitol  
31 building; portions of King Street and Pelham Street;  
32 the parking lot located across Union Street to the rear  
33 of the Capitol; the parking facilities connected to and  
34 adjacent to the State House; the lot bounded by  
35 Washington, Jackson, Pelham, and South Ripley Streets;  
36 and the driveway and parking spaces on the grounds  
37 surrounding the Capitol.

38 This bill would authorize the Legislature to  
39 control the entirety of these streets, if closed by the  
40 City of Montgomery, and require the Legislature to  
41 grant appropriate access to adjacent and surrounding  
42 property owners.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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49 Relating to the Legislature; to provide that the  
50 Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of  
51 Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services  
52 Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners  
53 of Public Accounts may expend funds to further the mission of  
54 the agencies; to allow subordinate officers, directors, and  
55 employees of the Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency,  
56 and the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to be



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57 reimbursed for expenses in certain circumstances; to amend  
58 Section 29-1-19 and Section 29-1-19.1, as last amended by Act  
59 2023-224, 2023 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, to  
60 clarify the particular spaces in the Capitol and other  
61 buildings to which the Clerk of the House of Representatives,  
62 the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director of the  
63 Legislative Services Agency have access; and to authorize the  
64 Legislature to control the entire portion of certain streets  
65 near the State Capitol complex in the City of Montgomery when  
66 those streets are closed by the City of Montgomery.

67 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

68         Section 1. The Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of  
69 the House of Representatives, the Director of the Legislative  
70 Services Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of  
71 Examiners of Public Accounts may expend funds to purchase  
72 promotional items, items to recognize achievements or  
73 otherwise award staff, items to commemorate persons recognized  
74 by the Legislature, and to purchase meals for staff during  
75 training and while the Legislature is in legislative session.

76         Section 2. Subordinate officers, directors, and  
77 employees of the Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency,  
78 and the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, upon  
79 approval by the head of the department or agency, may be  
80 reimbursed up to five hundred dollars (\$500) in expenses  
81 personally paid by the officer, director, or employee in costs  
82 of goods or services directly related to the officer's,  
83 director's, or employee's official position.

84         Section 3. Section 29-1-19 and Section 29-1-19.1, as



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85 last amended by Act 2023-224, 2023 Regular Session, Code of  
86 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

87 "§29-1-19

88 (a) The House of Representatives shall have the use of  
89 all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable  
90 space located on the second floor in the south wing of the  
91 Capitol. The Senate shall have the use of all offices, rooms,  
92 corridors, lavatories, and other usable space located on the  
93 second floor in the north wing of the Capitol. All of ~~said~~  
94 this space shall be for the use of the Legislature, ~~and~~ and the  
95 committees, members, officers, and employees thereof. The  
96 Clerk of the House shall have and exercise custody, control, and  
97 and care of the space ~~herein~~-designated in this subsection for  
98 the use of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of  
99 the Senate shall have and exercise custody, control, and care  
100 of the space ~~herein~~-so designated for the use of the Senate.

101 (b) In addition, the Secretary of the Senate shall have  
102 and exercise full custody, control, and care of the Senate  
103 chamber and the rooms adjacent thereto on the south side  
104 thereof, and the Clerk of the House shall have and exercise  
105 full custody, control, and care of the hall of the House of  
106 Representatives and the rooms adjacent thereto on the north  
107 side thereof, and rooms 213 and 214, and, while the  
108 Legislature is in session, room 216~~r~~ in the Capitol building.  
109 The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall  
110 jointly have custody, control, and care of all rooms on the  
111 third floor of the Capitol for the use of the Legislature.

112 (c) In addition, whenever it is deemed necessary for



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113 the Legislature to convene at any place outside of the  
114 Capitol, the Clerk of the House shall have the use of and  
115 exercise full custody, control, and care of all offices,  
116 rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space ~~on the~~  
117 ~~floor of the building in which~~ assigned to or occupied by the  
118 House of Representatives ~~meets or occupies; and;~~ the Secretary  
119 of the Senate shall have the use of and exercise full custody,  
120 control, and care of all offices, rooms, corridors,  
121 lavatories, and other usable space ~~on the floor of the~~  
122 ~~building in which~~ assigned to or occupied by the Senate; ~~meets~~  
123 ~~or occupies~~ and the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the  
124 Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency  
125 shall have the use of and exercise full custody, control, and  
126 care of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other  
127 usable space jointly used or occupied by joint legislative  
128 staff."

129 "§29-1-19.1

130 (a) The Legislature of the State of Alabama may control  
131 the usage of a certain portion of those streets adjacent to  
132 the State Capitol complex in the City of Montgomery and the  
133 grounds of the State Capitol building, viz: That portion of  
134 King Street and Pelham Street, lying between Union and Ripley  
135 Streets ~~(over which the city has relinquished control)~~; the  
136 parking lot located across Union Street to the rear of the  
137 Capitol building between the administrative building and  
138 highway building and bounded by Union, Ripley, and King  
139 Streets and McDowell Lee Lane owned by the Legislative Council  
140 of the State of Alabama; the parking facilities connected to



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141 and adjacent to the former Highway Department Building and now  
142 designated "the Alabama State House"; all of that lot bounded  
143 by Washington, Jackson, and Ripley Streets and McDowell Lee  
144 Lane owned by the ~~State of Alabama~~ Retirement Systems of  
145 Alabama; and the driveway and parking spaces on the grounds  
146 surrounding the Capitol itself, all the aforesaid being  
147 exclusive of any right-of-way or rights-of-way or parking  
148 facilities ~~now controlled by the City of Montgomery~~.

149 (b) The Legislature may exercise control over the usage  
150 of the areas through the joint parking committee created by  
151 Act No. 8, Organizational Session 1975, or its successor, or  
152 by subsequent legislative action; and the chief of services of  
153 the division of services shall work in cooperation with the  
154 Legislature regarding any action taken by the Legislature as  
155 hereby authorized.

156 (c) If any street adjoining property controlled by the  
157 Legislature as described in subsection (a) is closed by the  
158 City of Montgomery, the Legislature gains control of the  
159 entirety of the street, and the Legislature shall grant  
160 adjacent and surrounding property owners unimpeded access to  
161 their property."

162 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October  
163 1, 2024.