

# HB627 INTRODUCED



1 HB627  
2 5V2QA36-1  
3 By Representative Ingram  
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund  
5 First Read: 17-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a state employee receives a meal allowance of 15 percent of the regular per diem rate for a trip of six to 12 hours duration.

This bill would provide that a state employee receives a meal allowance of 17.5 percent of the regular per diem rate for a trip of six to 12 hours' duration.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to state employees; to amend Section 36-7-20, Code of Alabama 1975, to revise the meal allowance for travel in certain circumstances.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 36-7-20, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§36-7-20

(a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 36-7-21, the amount allowable to an individual traveling inside the State of Alabama in the service of the state or any of its departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, commissions,



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29 councils, committees, or other like agencies for expenses  
30 other than transportation may be fixed by the Governor at not  
31 less than seventy-five dollars (\$75) per day, and this amount  
32 shall be uniform in operation as to all individuals traveling  
33 within the state on official business under this section,  
34 provided, no individual shall be entitled to reimbursement  
35 under both this section and under Section 36-7-21 for any  
36 travel segment.

37 (b) No travel allowance shall be paid for a trip of  
38 less than six hours' duration. For travel that does not  
39 require an overnight stay, the traveler shall be paid a meal  
40 allowance of ~~15~~17.5 percent of the regular per diem rate for  
41 a trip of from six to 12 hours' duration, and for travel in  
42 excess of 12 hours' duration, the traveler shall be paid one  
43 meal allowance and one-fourth of the per diem allowance.

44 (c) The per diem allowance shall not be paid to an  
45 employee stationed at the same place in the state for a period  
46 in excess of two consecutive months. After two consecutive  
47 months the amount of the allowance shall be reduced to 75  
48 percent of the regular per diem rate per day.

49 (d) This section shall not apply to examiners or other  
50 individuals designated by the Commissioner of Insurance to  
51 examine or cause to be examined the domestic insurance  
52 corporations qualified in this state when the expense incurred  
53 by those individuals ~~shall be~~is paid by, collected, or  
54 received from the corporations examined under Section 27-2-25.

55 (e) This section shall be optional with the employing  
56 agency in those instances where the employee is required to



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57 attend training sessions, schools, seminars, or other like  
58 group functions at a facility when it would serve the best  
59 interests of both the state and the employee, or in those  
60 instances when the employee is assigned to assist in  
61 suppressing on-going natural disaster situations, or other  
62 emergencies. In those cases, the cost of meals and per diem  
63 may be paid as set forth ~~herein~~ in this section or by the  
64 employing agency of the state directly to the contract  
65 facility furnishing the service, but the costs of these  
66 services shall not exceed the amount allowable to the  
67 individual employee for in-state travel.

68 (f) For purposes of applying this section to members of  
69 the Legislature, each of the following shall apply:

70 (1) The presiding officer of the house to which the  
71 member belongs shall determine if the travel is in the service  
72 of the state.

73 (2) In connection with the same travel, members of the  
74 Legislature shall receive per diem under this section except  
75 in either of the following instances:

76 a. For attendance on special or regular session days or  
77 committee meeting days of the Legislature when otherwise  
78 compensated pursuant to law.

79 b. For attendance on interim committee meeting days of  
80 the Legislature when otherwise compensated pursuant to law.

81 (3) "Travel" means a departure from the place of  
82 residence of the member of the Legislature."

83 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
84 1, 2026.