Florida Senate - 2005

By the Committees on Ways and Means; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; and Senators Lawson, Argenziano, Campbell and Rich

	576-2361-05
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to per diem and travel
3	expenses; amending s. 112.061, F.S.;
4	establishing per diem, subsistence, and mileage
5	rates for travel expenses of public employees;
б	conforming provisions and deleting obsolete
7	provisions; providing legislative intent;
8	requiring state agencies to submit certain
9	information; providing an appropriation;
10	requiring the Governor to recommend a budget
11	amendment to distribute the appropriation;
12	providing an effective date.
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14	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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16	Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraphs
17	(e) and (g) of subsection (3) , subsection (6) , paragraph (d)
18	of subsection (7), and subsection (11) of section 112.061,
19	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
20	112.061 Per diem and travel expenses of public
21	officers, employees, and authorized persons
22	(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENTThere are inequities,
23	conflicts, inconsistencies, and lapses in the numerous laws
24	regulating or attempting to regulate travel expenses of public
25	officers, employees, and authorized persons in the state. It
26	is the intent of the Legislature:
27	(a) To remedy same and to establish uniform <u>travel</u>
28	<u>reimbursement rates for state agencies,</u> maximum <u>travel</u>
29	<u>reimbursement</u> rates <u>for nonstate public agencies</u> , and
30	limitations <u>for all public agencies</u> , with certain justifiable
31	exceptions, applicable to all <u>authorized travelers</u> public
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1 officers, employees, and authorized persons whose travel 2 expenses are paid by a public agency. 3 (3) AUTHORITY TO INCUR TRAVEL EXPENSES.--4 (e) The agency head, or a designated representative, may pay by advancement or reimbursement, or a combination 5 6 thereof, the costs of per diem of travelers and authorized 7 persons for foreign travel at the current rates as specified in the federal publication "Standardized Regulations 8 (Government Civilians, Foreign Areas)" and incidental expenses 9 as provided in this section. 10 (g) The secretary of the Department of Health or a 11 12 designee may authorize travel expenses incidental to the 13 rendering of medical services for and on behalf of clients of the Department of Health. The Department of Health may 14 establish rates lower than the rate maximum provided in this 15 16 section for these travel expenses. 17 (6) RATES OF PER DIEM AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE. -- For 18 purposes of reimbursement rates and methods of calculation, per diem and subsistence allowances are provided as follows 19 divided into the following groups and rates: 20 21 (a) All travelers shall be allowed for subsistence 22 when traveling to a convention or conference or when traveling 23 within or outside the state in order to conduct bona fide state business, which convention, conference, or business 2.4 serves a direct and lawful public purpose with relation to the 25 26 public agency served by the person attending such meeting or 27 conducting such business, either of the following for each day 2.8 of such travel at the option of the traveler: 1. Fifty dollars Per diem at the rate of \$60; or 29 30 2. If actual expenses exceed the amount permitted in <u>subparagraph 1.\$50</u>, the amounts permitted in paragraph (b) 31

1 for subsistence meals, plus actual expenses for lodging at a 2 single-occupancy rate to be substantiated by paid bills therefor. 3 4 When lodging or meals are provided at a state institution, the 5 б traveler shall be reimbursed only for the actual expenses of 7 such lodging or meals, not to exceed the maximum provided for 8 in this subsection. (b) All travelers shall be allowed the following 9 amounts for subsistence while on Class C travel on official 10 business as provided in paragraph (5)(b): 11 12 1. Breakfast.....\$4\$3 13 2. Lunch......<u>\$8</u>\$6 14 (c) No one, whether traveling out of state or in 15 state, shall be reimbursed for any meal or lodging included in 16 17 a convention or conference registration fee paid by the state. (d) For the 2004 2005 fiscal year only and 18 notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, for 19 Class C travel, a state traveler shall not be reimbursed on a 2.0 21 per diem basis nor shall a traveler receive subsistence 22 allowance. This paragraph expires July 1, 2005. 23 (7) TRANSPORTATION. --(d)1. The use of privately owned vehicles for official 2.4 travel in lieu of publicly owned vehicles or common carriers 25 may be authorized by the agency head or his or her designee. 26 27 Whenever travel is by privately owned vehicle, the traveler 2.8 shall be entitled to a mileage allowance at a fixed rate of 3225 cents per mile for state fiscal year 1994 1995 and 29 cents 29 30 per mile thereafter or the common carrier fare for such 31

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travel, if as determined by the agency head to be more 1 2 economical. 3 2. Reimbursement for expenditures related to the operation, maintenance, and ownership of a vehicle shall not 4 be allowed when privately owned vehicles are used on public 5 6 business and reimbursement is made pursuant to this paragraph, 7 except as provided in subsection (8). 8 3.2. All mileage shall be shown from point of origin 9 to point of destination and, when possible, shall be computed on the basis of the current map of the Department of 10 Transportation. Vicinity mileage necessary for the conduct of 11 12 official business is allowable but must be shown as a separate 13 item on the expense voucher. (11) TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND VOUCHER FORMS. --14 (a) Authorization forms.--The Department of Financial 15 Services shall furnish a uniform travel authorization request 16 17 form which shall be used by all state officers, and employees, 18 and authorized persons when requesting approval for the performance of travel to a convention or conference. The form 19 shall include, but not be limited to, provision for the name 20 of each traveler, purpose of travel, period of travel, 21 22 estimated cost to the state, and a statement of benefits 23 accruing to the state by virtue of such travel. A copy of the program or agenda of the convention or conference, itemizing 2.4 registration fees and any meals or lodging included in the 25 registration fee, shall be attached to, and filed with, the 26 27 copy of the travel authorization request form on file with the 2.8 agency. The form shall be signed by the traveler and by the 29 traveler's supervisor stating that the travel is to be incurred in connection with official business of the state. 30 The head of the agency or his or her designated representative 31

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shall not authorize or approve such request in the absence of
the appropriate signatures. A copy of the travel authorization
form shall be attached to, and become a part of, the support
of the agency's copy of the travel voucher.

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(b) Voucher forms.--

6 1. The Department of Financial Services shall furnish 7 a uniform travel voucher form which shall be used by all state 8 officers, and employees, and authorized persons when 9 submitting travel expense statements for approval and payment. No travel expense statement shall be approved for payment by 10 the Chief Financial Officer unless made on the form prescribed 11 12 and furnished by the department. The travel voucher form shall 13 provide for, among other things, the purpose of the official travel and a certification or affirmation, to be signed by the 14 traveler, indicating the truth and correctness of the claim in 15 every material matter, that the travel expenses were actually 16 17 incurred by the traveler as necessary in the performance of 18 official duties, that per diem claimed has been appropriately reduced for any meals or lodging included in the convention or 19 conference registration fees claimed by the traveler, and that 20 21 the voucher conforms in every respect with the requirements of 22 this section. The original copy of the executed uniform travel 23 authorization request form shall be attached to the uniform travel voucher on file with the respective agency. 2.4 Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that 25 travel reimbursement rates be set at reasonable rates so that 26 27 travelers are adequately compensated for necessary expenses 2.8 incurred while conducting public business. Recognizing that adequate information does not exist to fully address this 29

30 issue at this time, the Legislature directs:

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1	(1) For fiscal year 2005-2006, each state agency to
2	submit to the Legislative Budget Commission quarterly reports
3	regarding the travel expenses incurred by the agency. The
4	agency shall detail expenses for mileage, per diem,
5	subsistence, lodging, rental cars, and other travel expenses.
6	The reports must also identify fund sources of the travel
7	expenses.
8	(2) In planning for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, each
9	agency to include in its legislative budget request
10	submission, the agency's best estimate of the incremental cost
11	necessary to fully fund the agency's 2003-2004 travel
12	expenses, based on reimbursement of mileage at the rate of 38
13	cents per mile, per diem at the rate of \$90 per day, and
14	subsistence at the rate of \$5 for breakfast, \$11 for lunch,
15	and \$23 for dinner.
16	Section 3. There is appropriated \$3.7 million from the
17	General Revenue Fund and \$4.3 million from trust funds for the
18	purpose of providing budget authority necessary to fund the
19	incremental travel expenditures associated with the
20	reimbursement rate increases authorized by this act. By
21	September 1, 2005, state agencies and the judicial and
22	legislative branches shall submit to the Executive Office of
23	the Governor estimates for the 2005-2006 fiscal year as to the
24	need for funding associated with the incremental increase in
25	reimbursement rates. By October 1, 2005, the Governor shall
26	recommend a budget amendment for approval by the Legislative
27	Budget Commission distributing the budget authority
28	appropriated by this section among the state agencies and the
29	judicial and legislative branches. Such recommendation shall
30	take into consideration the level of travel expenditure
31	incurred by the entities during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005

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1 fiscal years as well as the amounts appropriated for expenses 2 to specific entities for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. 3 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005. 4 5 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR б CS Senate Bill 778 7 8 The Committee Substitute establishes uniform travel reimbursement ranges for travelers, including:. 9 The per diem rate for travelers will be \$60. 10 Travelers are allowed \$4 for breakfast. _ 11 Travelers are allowed \$8 for lunch. 12 Travelers are allowed \$15 for dinner. 13 All travelers are entitled to 32 cents per mile for travel in a privately owned vehicle. 14 The bill appropriates \$8 million for distribution to state agencies and the judicial and legislative branches for the incremental travel expenditures experienced in FY 2005-2006. 15 16 17 The Committee Substitute requires state agencies to submit reports to the Legislative Budget Commission detailing travel 18 expenditures for FY 2005-2006. 19 20 21 22 23 2.4 25 26 27 28 29 30 31