

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to county and municipal public
3 officers and employees; amending s. 112.061, F.S.;
4 requiring that requests to travel outside of the state
5 by county or municipal public officers be approved by
6 the governing board of such county or municipality at
7 a publicly noticed meeting; limiting travel expenses
8 of such public officers or employees to those expenses
9 incurred in a specified time period; prohibiting
10 travel expenses of such public officers or employees
11 for foreign travel; limiting lodging expenses of such
12 public officers or employees to a specified amount;
13 authorizing such public officers or employees to
14 expend their own funds for lodging expenses that
15 exceed such amount; creating s. 112.91, F.S.;
16 providing a definition; requiring such public officers
17 who are candidates for elected office to make campaign
18 finance reports available on certain public websites;
19 requiring such public officers to report certain
20 travel expenses to a specified commission on ethics or
21 to the Commission on Ethics; requiring such public
22 officers to comply with constitutional financial
23 disclosure requirements; providing an effective date.

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25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (f), (g), and (h) of subsection (3) of section 112.061, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (h), (i), and (j), respectively, paragraph (a) of that subsection and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) are amended, and new paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to subsection (3) of that section, to read:

112.061 Per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons.—

(3) AUTHORITY TO INCUR TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(a) All travel must be authorized and approved by the head of the agency, or his or her designated representative, from whose funds the traveler is paid. The head of the agency shall not authorize or approve such a request unless:

1. It is accompanied by a signed statement by the traveler's supervisor stating that such travel is on the official business of the state and also stating the purpose of such travel.

2. For county or municipal public officers requesting authorization to travel outside of the state, it is approved by the governing body of the county or municipality at a publicly noticed meeting. The request must be included on the meeting agenda and must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated travel expenses, including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of all means of travel, lodging, and

51 subsistence. The public must have an opportunity to speak at the
52 meeting before the vote occurs. The governing body of the county
53 or municipality may approve the request by a majority vote of
54 the members present and voting at the meeting.

55 (f) Travel expenses of county or municipal public officers
56 or employees shall be limited to those expenses necessarily
57 incurred by them beginning 24 hours before the start of the
58 event and ending 24 hours after the end of the event
59 necessitating such travel.

60 (g) Travel expenses of county or municipal public officers
61 or employees for foreign travel shall not be allowed under any
62 circumstances.

63 (6) RATES OF PER DIEM AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.—For
64 purposes of reimbursement rates and methods of calculation, per
65 diem and subsistence allowances are provided as follows:

66 (a) All travelers shall be allowed for subsistence when
67 traveling to a convention or conference or when traveling within
68 or outside the state in order to conduct bona fide state
69 business, which convention, conference, or business serves a
70 direct and lawful public purpose with relation to the public
71 agency served by the person attending such meeting or conducting
72 such business, either of the following for each day of such
73 travel at the option of the traveler:

- 74 1. Eighty dollars per diem; or
75 2. If actual expenses exceed \$80, the amounts permitted in

76 paragraph (b) for subsistence, plus actual expenses for lodging
77 at a single-occupancy rate to be substantiated by paid bills
78 therefor, except that county or municipal public officers or
79 employees are only permitted lodging expenses of up to \$120 per
80 day. A county or municipal public officer or employee may expend
81 his or her own funds for any lodging expenses that exceed \$120
82 per day.

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84 When lodging or meals are provided at a state institution, the
85 traveler shall be reimbursed only for the actual expenses of
86 such lodging or meals, not to exceed the maximum provided for in
87 this subsection.

88 Section 2. Section 112.91, Florida Statutes, is created to
89 read:

90 112.91 County and municipal public officers.—

91 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "public
92 officer" has the same meaning as in s. 112.061.

93 (2) A county or municipal public officer who is a
94 candidate for elected office must make any report required under
95 s. 106.07 available for public view on such county's or
96 municipality's website.

97 (3) A county or municipal public officer must report
98 travel expenses that are paid with or reimbursed from taxpayer
99 funds to the commission on ethics of the county or municipality
100 or, if the county or municipality has not established a

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101 commission on ethics, to the Commission on Ethics created in s.
102 112.320. The travel expense report must state the purpose of the
103 travel, justify the necessity of the travel, and provide proof
104 of incurred travel expenses.

105 (4) Beginning January 1, 2019, a county or municipal
106 public officer must comply with the applicable financial
107 disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State
108 Constitution.

109 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.