

ENROLLED

HB 353

2024 Legislature

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An act relating to alternative headquarters for district court judges; amending s. 35.051, F.S.; authorizing a district court judge to have an appropriate facility in an adjacent county to his or her county of residence as the judge's official headquarters; authorizing subsistence and travel reimbursement for such locations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 35.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

35.051 Subsistence and travel reimbursement for judges with alternate headquarters.—

(1)(a) A district court of appeal judge is eligible for the designation of a county courthouse or another appropriate facility in his or her county of residence, or an adjacent county within the district, as his or her official headquarters for purposes of s. 112.061 if the judge permanently resides more than 50 miles from:

1. The appellate district's headquarters as prescribed under s. 35.05(1), if the judge is assigned to such headquarters; or

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26           2. The appellate district's branch headquarters  
 27 established under s. 35.05(2), if the judge is assigned to such  
 28 branch headquarters.

29  
 30 The official headquarters may serve only as the judge's private  
 31 chambers.

32           (b)1. A district court of appeal judge for whom an  
 33 official headquarters is designated under paragraph (a) ~~in his~~  
 34 ~~or her county of residence under this subsection~~ is eligible for  
 35 subsistence at a rate to be established by the Chief Justice for  
 36 each day or partial day that the judge is at the headquarters or  
 37 branch headquarters of his or her appellate district to conduct  
 38 court business, as authorized by the chief judge of that  
 39 district court of appeal. The Chief Justice may authorize a  
 40 judge to choose between subsistence based on lodging at a  
 41 single-occupancy rate and meal reimbursement as provided in s.  
 42 112.061 and subsistence at a fixed rate prescribed by the Chief  
 43 Justice.

44           2. In addition to subsistence, a district court of appeal  
 45 judge is eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses as  
 46 provided in s. 112.061(7) and (8) for travel between the judge's  
 47 official headquarters and the headquarters or branch  
 48 headquarters of the appellate district to conduct court  
 49 business. If the judge's official headquarters designated under  
 50 paragraph (a) is located in a county adjacent to the judge's

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51 county of residence, such reimbursement is limited to the lesser  
 52 of:

53 a. The amount for travel between the judge's official  
 54 headquarters and the headquarters or branch headquarters of the  
 55 appellate district; or

56 b. The amount that would be authorized for travel between  
 57 an official headquarters maintained in the judge's county of  
 58 residence and the headquarters or branch headquarters of the  
 59 appellate district.

60 (c) Payment of subsistence and reimbursement for travel  
 61 expenses between the judge's official headquarters and the  
 62 headquarters or branch headquarters of his or her appellate  
 63 district shall be made to the extent that appropriated funds are  
 64 available, as determined by the Chief Justice.

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.