

By Mr. Colo of Athol, petition of H. Thomas Colo for legislation to regulate the travel allowance and expenses of members of the General Court. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Eight.

AN ACT REGULATING THE TRAVEL ALLOWANCE AND EXPENSES OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COURT.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as
follows:*

1 Section 9B of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in section 2 of chapter 506 of the acts of 1963, is hereby
3 amended by striking out the second paragraph and inserting
4 in place thereof the following paragraph:—

5 Each member of the general court who lives less than forty
6 miles from the state house shall receive eight cents for every
7 mile traveling distance from his place of abode to the state
8 house along the shortest practical direct road route and
9 return therefrom for each day of attendance upon the general
10 court, or authorized scheduled committee meeting, but for
11 not more than four days in each week; and in lieu of daily
12 return travel, a member may collect for not more than two
13 days, an overnight allowance of not more than eighteen
14 dollars upon presentation to the office of the treasurer a
15 receipt for lodging and one main meal and three dollars of
16 said allowance may be collected without account; and for any
17 member who certifies that he has been in attendance for four
18 days in each week no member shall receive less than seven
19 dollars. Each member of the general court who lives forty
20 miles or more from the state house shall receive the afore-
21 mentioned allowance or, at his election, an allowance of
22 eights cents per mile for not more than one round trip a week
23 and in addition an allowance for lodging and meals of not
24 more than eighteen dollars a day for not more than four days
25 each week; and in lieu of daily lodging and meals, a member

26 may collect for travel back to his abode as specified. Pay-
27 ments under this paragraph shall be paid by the state
28 treasurer only upon presentation to the office of the state
29 treasurer of a receipted bill for lodging and one main meal,
30 for expenses actually incurred and upon completion of a
31 voucher in which a member certifies under penalty of perjury
32 that he traveled daily as above specified and actually
33 incurred expenses of travel, or incurred expenses of travel and
34 lodging and meals as above specified. Three dollars of the
35 allowance of not more than eighteen dollars need not be
36 accountable for by paid receipt. If a member travels by
37 public conveyance he shall receive reimbursement equal to
38 eight cents per mile for the number of miles from his abode to
39 the state house and return. There shall be an allowance for
40 payment of turnpike, bridge or tunnel fees upon presentation
41 of a voucher for travel as specified. The above payments shall
42 be payable on or after the last day of each legislative week.

43 In lieu of reimbursement provided for above for mileage of
44 travel to and from the State House as specified, the repre-
45 sentatives of the county of Dukes and Nantucket may receive
46 reimbursement for travel to and from the state house as
47 specified, upon presentation to the office of the treasurer a
48 receipted bill for air or boat travel not to exceed normal
49 prevailing rates for such public travel.

50 Expenses for both travel and lodging as specified above
51 shall not be payable beyond July thirtieth of each year but
52 may be extended an additional thirty days upon a favorable
53 recorded roll call of four-fifths vote of the house and senate.

54 Each member, upon his election to the legislature, or upon
55 change of his place of abode, shall complete a card in the
56 office of the treasurer in which he certifies his route of travel
57 and the number of miles from his abode to the state house as
58 specified.