LEGISLATOR COMPENSATION

2027 SESSION PAYMENTS

As we approach the upcoming Legislative Session, the Legislative Financial Office would like to take a moment to provide you some important information. The purpose of this memo is to explain how salary, per diem and other payments are processed for legislators during session.

All salary, per diem, mileage, and any other reimbursements will be paid every other week on the State of Montana payroll cycle. The 2027 payroll calendar is located at 2027 Payroll Calendar. 5-2-301, MCA governs Legislator compensation while in Session.

SALARY

- Salary is paid "in arrears." The first salary payment, for January 4-8, 2027 will be paid on January 20, 2027. Subsequent payments are made every two weeks thereafter.
- Legislators may serve for no salary. If you choose this, please send a request to the Financial Services central email inbox at legfinservices@legmt.gov.

PER DIEM

Per diem payments are paid "in advance," which means that, upon receipt of your weekly per diem, payment is through the end of that pay period. You will receive payments bi-weekly, every other Wednesday (same day as salary “pay day”). Your first per diem payment will be on January 6, 2027 (January 4 - 8, 2027).

ROUND TRIP MILEAGE

For those legislators who live outside the Helena area and travel to the Capitol to attend session, your first round-trip is automatically processed (no claim form is necessary). You will receive your first session mileage payment on January 6, 2027. In addition to the first payment, you may request three additional round trips. These payments are made on a reimbursement basis, paid after a trip home has been taken, and a mileage-specific claim form is required.

OTHER PAYMENTS

If you have recently submitted a claim for attendance of a legislative interim committee meeting, we are processing these claims with the next bi-weekly salary payment.