HISTORY OF LEGISLATOR SALARY AND PER DIEM RATES

Salary Rates:

- Laws of 1977, Chapter 103 – Enacted the additional $5/day during session for President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.
- Prior to 2009 Session – Salary based on 5-2-301, MCA, defined as "commensurate to that of the daily rate of an entry grade 10 classified state employee in effect when the regular session of the legislature in which they serve is convened…"
- Beginning with 2009 Session - HB13, passed during the 2007 session, reflected the executive branch implementation of a broadband pay plan and revised 5-2-301, MCA, related to legislator salary. Legislator salary was established as "commensurate to that of the daily rate for an employee earning $10.33 an hour when the regular session of the legislature in which they serve is convened..." The salary must be adjusted by any statutorily required pay increase. The statute revision was effective 7/1/07 and first applied to the 61st Legislature convening in January 2009. (Verified with Legal Director 7/20/07)
- For 2017 - 2019 Sessions – SB 418 (L. 2015), raised state employee salaries by 50 cents an hour in January of 2016 and January of 2017, making the salary $11.33 /hour. SB 294 (L. 2017), raised state employee salaries by 1% in February of 2018 and 1% in February of 2019, making the salary $11.56 /hour.
- For 2021 Session - HB 175 (L. 2019) raised pay for state employees that included a 0.50 cent increase beginning the first pay period including January 1 for each year of the biennium, making the salary $12.56/hour.
- For 2023 Session – HB 13 (L. 2021) raised pay for state employees that included a 0.55 cent increase beginning the first pay period including November 5, 2022, making the salary $13.11/hour for Legislators starting January 2, 2023.
- For 2025 Session – HB 13 raised pay for state employees that included $1.50 an hour or 4% whichever is greater beginning the first complete pay period that includes July 1, 2023, and the same for the pay period that includes July 1, 2024. This makes the Legislators' salary $16.11/hour starting January 6, 2025.
- For 2027 Session – HB 13 amended 5-2-301, MCA as follows:
    - **Compensation and expenses for members while in session.** (1) For the legislators serving in the legislative session beginning in January 2027, the salary of each legislator must be determined by multiplying 80% times the average hourly wage for the state of Montana, all industry types, posted by the United States bureau of labor statistics from the most recently published quarter of employment and wages data. For the legislators serving in the legislative session beginning in January 2029 and any subsequent biennium, the salary of each legislator must be determined to be equal to the average hourly wage for the state of Montana, all industry types, posted by the United States bureau of labor statistics from the most recently published quarter of employment and wages data. The average hourly rate must be calculated by dividing the average weekly wage by 40 hours. The president of the senate and the speaker of the house must receive an additional $5 a day in salary for those days during which the legislature is in session.
    - Based on the latest quarter available, it's estimated that the daily salary will be a little more than $196. **NOTE: This is only an estimate and is subject to change.**

MONTH/YEAR	DAILY	HOURLY	ANNUAL
January **1999**	$59.67	$7.46	$15,515
January **2001**	$71.83	$8.98	$18,676
January **2003**	$76.80	$9.60	$19,968
January **2005**	$76.80	$9.60	$19,968
January **2007**	$82.67	$10.33	$21,493
January **2009**	$82.64	$10.33	$21,486
January **2011**	$82.64	$10.33	$21,486
January **2013**	$82.64	$10.33	$21,486
January **2015**	$82.64	$10.33	$21,486
January **2017**	$90.64	$11.33	$23,566

January **2019**	$92.46	$11.56	$24,045
January **2021**	$100.46	$12.56	$26,125
January **2023**	$104.86	$13.11	$27,269
January **2025**	$128.86	$16.11	$33,509
January 2027 ESTIMATE ONLY	***$196.64***	***$24.58***	***$51,126***

Session Per Diem Rates:

- In the 2023 Session - House Bill 28 changed in-session per diem for legislators to the Federal Per Diem Rate. This rate changes each October.

Biennium	Per Diem Rate
1997	$70.00
1999	$75.00
2001	$87.25
2003	$90.31
2005	$94.05
2007	$98.75
2009	$103.69
2011	$105.31
2013	$109.78
2015	$112.85
2017	$114.39
2019	$120.11
2021	$126.12
2023	$171.00
2025	$206.00
2027	$214.00

Interim Per Diem Rates: (5-2-302, MCA)

The 69th Legislature passed Senate Bill 64, which amended MCA 5-2-302, the statute governing compensation for legislative interim work. This legislation establishes a zone-based system for determining compensation for participation in Interim, Budget, and Administrative Committee meetings, based on the round-trip mileage from a member's residence to the meeting location.

A member's eligible compensation is based on the designated travel zone corresponding to the round-trip distance from their residence to the meeting location, unless they choose to opt out of part or all of the compensation by contacting the Legislative Financial Office at legfinservices@legmt.gov.

Primary and Secondary Constituent Services Funds

Program History:

5-2-204, MCA, provides for a stipend for legislators and/or allows reimbursement of constituent services expenses not paid from a constituent services account under 13-37-402, MCA or otherwise reimbursed. The statute provides a primary $3,000 stipend or allowance for each legislator and a secondary amount of between $1,000 and $4,000 depending on the square mileage of a legislator's district, for districts over 100 square miles (taxes may apply).

This gives legislators the option to choose how the primary $3,000 is distributed.

1. “Stipend” which is a lump sum payment.
2. “Allowance” which is reimbursement for expenditures.
3. A combination of a “stipend” and/or “allowance.”

Secondary Amount

- The law specifies that legislators must apply for reimbursement to the Legislative Services Division by submitting written documentation that satisfies applicable requirements of 2-18-5, MCA which apply to meals, lodging, and transportation for otherwise unreimbursed expenses related to the legislator’s expenses incurred for providing constituent services within their legislative district. The secondary amount is a variable amount that is determined by square mileage of district. Please click Constituent Services Secondary Reimbursement Amount by District to see if your district is eligible for a secondary amount (and applicable amount).