

By: Whitmire

S.R. No. 1

SENATE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. CAUCUS REPORT. At a caucus held in the offices of the senate attended by 29 members of the senate, the caucus made the recommendations for the operation of the senate contained in this resolution.

SECTION 2. SENATE OFFICERS. (a) Senate officers for the 78th Legislature are:

- (1) Secretary of the Senate--Patsy Spaw;
- (2) Calendar Clerk--Pat Rodgers;
- (3) Doorkeeper--Don Long;
- (4) Enrolling Clerk--Mardi Alexander;
- (5) Journal Clerk--Dianne Arrington; and
- (6) Sergeant-at-arms--Carleton Turner.

(b) Officers named in this section serve at the will of the senate.

SECTION 3. PARLIAMENTARIAN. The parliamentarian, Karina Casari, is named by the lieutenant governor and serves at the will of the lieutenant governor. The parliamentarian is a senate officer.

SECTION 4. EMPLOYEES. (a) The lieutenant governor may employ staff for the office of the lieutenant governor at salaries set by the lieutenant governor.

(b) Each senator may employ staff for the senator's

office at salaries set by the senator.

(c) The chairman of each committee may employ staff of the chair's selection as needed by the committee. A committee employee shall be compensated in amounts similar to the compensation paid to persons in similar senate positions.

(d) The secretary of the senate may employ other staff necessary for the operation of the senate at salaries approved by the administration committee.

(e) The lieutenant governor, the secretary of the senate, and each senator may use the assistance of any assistant sergeant-at-arms or other available senate employee for any and all services needed in and about the senate.

(f) In this resolution, "senate employee" includes an employee of the lieutenant governor, the secretary of the senate, a senator, a senate committee, and any other person compensated from funds appropriated for the operation of the senate.

SECTION 5. DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE. (a) In addition to the duties of the administration committee expressly imposed by this resolution, the committee shall take actions necessary to ensure that the administrative operations of the senate comply with applicable law and are conducted effectively and efficiently.

(b) The committee shall establish appropriate and necessary controls over contracts, inventory, and property management.

(c) The committee may delegate any of its responsibilities to the committee chair, or to the secretary of the senate or

another appropriate senate officer, to be performed under the general supervision of the committee.

(d) Policies adopted by the administration committee must be consistent with the provisions of this resolution. To the extent of a conflict between a policy and this resolution, this resolution prevails.

(e) Policies adopted by the administration committee are subject to the will of the senate, and a majority of the senate may reject or modify any policy adopted by the committee.

SECTION 6. EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONNEL POLICIES. (a) The administration committee may adopt and enforce personnel and employment policies governing senate employees.

(b) The administration committee may not adopt a policy that limits the salary of an employee of the lieutenant governor, a senator, or a senate committee, except that the administration committee may require approval by that committee of any senate committee employee salary that is proposed to exceed \$5,000 a month.

SECTION 7. MEMBER'S EMPLOYEE LEAVE POLICY. (a) An employee of a senator accrues vacation leave, compensatory leave, or sick leave in accordance with policies adopted by the senator consistent with the requirements of this section.

(b) An employee may accrue vacation leave, compensatory leave, or sick leave only if the employee files a monthly time record with the senate personnel office. Time records are due not later than the 10th day of the following month.

(c) Compensatory time must be used not later than the

last day of the 12th month following the month in which the time was accrued.

(d) An employee is not entitled to compensation for accrued but unused compensatory time.

SECTION 8. OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT. An employee of the senate may not be employed by and receive compensation from any other person during the term of senate employment without the permission of the employee's senate employer.

SECTION 9. WORK HOURS. An employee shall report to work at the time, and work for the number of hours, set by the employee's senate employer.

SECTION 10. LIMIT ON MONTHLY STAFF SALARY AND TRAVEL EXPENSES. (a) The total amount of staff salaries and intrastate staff travel expenses for each senator may not exceed \$34,000 per month.

(b) Any unexpended portion of this monthly amount may be carried forward from one month to the next and expended until the end of the fiscal year.

SECTION 11. SENATORS' EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND PER DIEM. The secretary of the senate shall provide for the reimbursement of the expenses of each senator and the payment of each senator's per diem in accordance with law, this resolution, and the rules of the Texas Ethics Commission.

SECTION 12. OTHER SENATE EXPENSES. (a) The lieutenant governor, the secretary of the senate, and each senator may incur expenses for carrying out official duties, including expenses for items such as subscriptions, stationery, postage, and

telecommunications.

(b) Expenses under this section shall be paid from the contingent expense fund of the senate.

SECTION 13. PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND EXPENSES.

(a) Salaries and expenses authorized by this resolution shall be paid from the contingent expense fund as provided by this section.

(b) Vouchers for payment of any expense, including salaries and travel expenses, must be signed by the chair of the administration committee and the secretary of the senate.

(c) The administration committee shall adopt policies regarding the presentation of timely, properly completed, and signed vouchers.

SECTION 14. DESIGNATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS. (a) The administration committee shall designate a senator or any employee to attend an official meeting of a national governmental organization during a session of the 78th Legislature. The person designated is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses.

(b) The lieutenant governor may designate a senator to represent the senate at ceremonies and ceremonial functions. The necessary expenses of the senator and necessary staff for this purpose shall be paid pursuant to a budget adopted by the administration committee.

SECTION 15. ELECTRONIC RECORDING BY MEMBER PROHIBITED. No member of the senate may electronically record a private conversation held within the brass rail on the senate floor

during a legislative session without the knowledge and consent of all participants to the conversation.

SECTION 16. JOURNAL. The secretary of the senate shall provide for the printing of not more than 500 copies of the daily journal. Of that number:

(1) 175 shall be furnished to the house of representatives;

(2) 60 shall be furnished to the Legislative Reference Library; and

(3) the remainder shall be apportioned among the senators and the lieutenant governor.