

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 631 Escambia County

**SPONSOR(S):** Benson

**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Local Government &amp; Veterans' Affairs</u>	<u></u>	<u>Sheheane</u>	<u>Highsmith-Smith</u>
2) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
3) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes Escambia County to adopt for their departments, offices, and agencies, the schedule of per diem rates, subsistence allowances, transportation and other expenses established and used by the United States Government for federal employee.

**Pursuant to House Rule 5.5(b), a local bill that provides an exemption from general law may not be placed on the Special Order Calendar in any section reserved for the expedited consideration of local bills. The provisions of House Rule 5.5(b) appear to apply to this bill.**

According to the Economic Impact Statement prepared by the Budget Manager for the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, there would be a \$78,263 increased expenditure on Escambia County for fiscal years 2003/2004 and 2004/2005. This excludes costs for sheriff's travel for fugitive warrants. The advantages, according to the Economic Impact Statement, are that employees of Escambia County who travel on County business will be reimbursed for actual costs.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

**STORAGE NAME:** h0631.lgv.doc

**DATE:** March 9, 2003

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. DOES THE BILL:

- |                                      |                              |                             |   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government?                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes?                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom?        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families?                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Currently, employees of Escambia County expend private funds for a portion of their traveling expenses for the County. According to the provisions of section 112.061, F.S., these heightened expenses cannot be reimbursed. HB 631 authorizes Escambia County to adopt the current schedule of rates per diem, subsistence allowances, transportation expenses, and other expenses established and used by the United States Government for official travel. This will allow employees of all departments, offices, and agencies of the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to use less out of pocket money when traveling on business for the County.

According to the Budget Manager of Escambia County, the following method was used in estimating the costs involved with this bill:

An average meal rate was collected for the three states most frequented by Escambia County using federal guidelines. This average meal rate was compared to the current per diem rate used by Escambia County, and a percentage increase calculated. The percentage increase was applied to actual per diem expenditures for fiscal year 2002. The average federal meal rate was \$36.51 per day and the County's per diem rate is \$21.00 per day based on current statute.

For the mileage component the federal mileage rate was compared to the County's mileage rate to obtain a percentage increase. This percentage increase was multiplied by actual mileage expenditures in fiscal year 2002. The federal mileage rate is 36.5 cents per mile and the County's is 29 cents per mile based on current statute. All other provisions of 112.061, F.S., continue to apply. This section of law sets forth uniformity and standardization in an attempt to regulate travel expenses among public officers, employees, and authorized persons in the state.

#### C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Authorizes the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County to adopt, by ordinance, the schedule of rates per diem and subsistence allowances, transportation expenses, and other expenses paid by the United States Government to federal employee travelers.

Section 2: Provides that to the extent such federal rate amounts conflict with section 112.061(6), (7), and (8), F.S., any and all departments, offices, and agencies of the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County shall be permitted to reimburse at the current reimbursement rate amounts of the United States Government.

Section 3: Provides that all other provisions of section 112.061, F.S., remain applicable to the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County.

Section 4: This act shall take effect upon becoming law.

## **II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, WHEN? December 26, 2002.

WHERE? The Pensacola News Journal, Escambia County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes ☐ No ☒

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached ☒ No ☐

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached ☒ No ☐

## **III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

## **IV. AMENDMENT/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

The bill's sponsor has agreed to offer an amendment which adds clarifying language describing that the departments, offices, and agencies are included when referring to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners and that the remaining sections of 112.061, F.S., apply therein.