

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to appellate courts headquarters and
3 travel; amending s. 25.025, F.S.; revising provisions
4 governing the payment of subsistence and travel
5 reimbursement for Supreme Court justices who designate
6 an official headquarters other than the headquarters
7 of the Supreme Court; authorizing the Chief Justice of
8 the Supreme Court to establish certain parameters in
9 administering the act; providing for construction;
10 creating s. 35.051, F.S.; authorizing district court
11 of appeal judges who meet certain criteria to have an
12 appropriate facility in their county of residence
13 designated as their official headquarters; providing
14 restrictions; specifying eligibility for subsistence
15 and travel reimbursement, subject to the availability
16 of funds; requiring the Chief Justice to coordinate
17 with certain officials in implementing the act;
18 providing that a county is not required to provide
19 space for a judge in a county courthouse; authorizing
20 counties to enter into agreements with a district
21 court of appeal for use of county courthouse space;
22 prohibiting a district court of appeal from using
23 state funds to lease space to establish a judge's
24 official headquarters; authorizing the Chief Justice
25 to establish certain parameters in administering the

26 act; providing for construction; providing an
 27 effective date.

28
 29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30
 31 Section 1. Section 25.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 32 read:

33 25.025 Headquarters.—

34 (1) (a) A Supreme Court justice who permanently resides
 35 outside Leon County is eligible for the designation of ~~shall, if~~
 36 ~~he or she so requests, have~~ a district court of appeal
 37 courthouse, a county courthouse, or another appropriate facility
 38 in his or her district of residence ~~designated~~ as his or her
 39 official headquarters for purposes of ~~pursuant to~~ s. 112.061.
 40 This official headquarters may serve only as the justice's
 41 private chambers.

42 (b) 1. A justice for whom an official headquarters is
 43 designated in his or her district of residence under this
 44 subsection is eligible for subsistence at a rate to be
 45 established by the Chief Justice for each day or partial day
 46 that the justice is at the headquarters of the Supreme Court to
 47 ~~Building for the conduct~~ court of the business, as authorized by
 48 the Chief Justice of the court. The Chief Justice may authorize
 49 a justice to choose between subsistence based on lodging at a
 50 single-occupancy rate and meal reimbursement as provided in s.

51 112.061 and subsistence at a fixed rate prescribed by the Chief
52 Justice.

53 2. In addition to ~~the~~ subsistence ~~allowance~~, a justice is
54 eligible for reimbursement for travel ~~transportation~~ expenses as
55 provided in s. 112.061(7) and (8) for travel between the
56 justice's official headquarters and the headquarters of the
57 Supreme Court ~~to Building for the conduct~~ court ~~of the~~ business
58 ~~of the court.~~

59 (c) Payment of subsistence and reimbursement for travel
60 ~~transportation~~ expenses ~~relating to travel~~ between a justice's
61 official headquarters and the headquarters of the Supreme Court
62 shall ~~Building must~~ be made to the extent that appropriated
63 funds are available, as determined by the Chief Justice.

64 (2) The Chief Justice shall coordinate with each affected
65 justice and other state and local officials as necessary to
66 implement subsection (1) ~~paragraph (1)(a)~~.

67 (3)(a) This section does not require a county to provide
68 space in a county courthouse for a justice. A county may enter
69 into an agreement with the Supreme Court governing the use of
70 space in a county courthouse.

71 (b) The Supreme Court may not use state funds to lease
72 space in a district court of appeal courthouse, county
73 courthouse, or other facility to allow a justice to establish an
74 official headquarters pursuant to subsection (1).

75 (4) The Chief Justice may establish parameters governing

76 | the authority provided in this section, including, but not
 77 | limited to, specifying minimum operational requirements for the
 78 | designated headquarters, limiting the number of days for which
 79 | subsistence and travel reimbursement may be provided, and
 80 | prescribing activities that qualify as the conduct of court
 81 | business.

82 | (5) If any term of this section conflicts with s. 112.061,
 83 | this section shall control to the extent of the conflict.

84 | Section 2. Section 35.051, Florida Statutes, is created to
 85 | read:

86 | 35.051 Subsistence and travel reimbursement for judges
 87 | with alternate headquarters.—

88 | (1) (a) A district court of appeal judge is eligible for
 89 | the designation of a county courthouse or another appropriate
 90 | facility in his or her county of residence as his or her
 91 | official headquarters for purposes of s. 112.061 if the judge
 92 | permanently resides more than 50 miles from:

93 | 1. The appellate district's headquarters as prescribed
 94 | under s. 35.05(1), if the judge is assigned to such
 95 | headquarters; or

96 | 2. The appellate district's branch headquarters
 97 | established under s. 35.05(2), if the judge is assigned to such
 98 | branch headquarters.

99 |
 100 | The official headquarters may serve only as the judge's private

101 chambers.

102 (b)1. A district court of appeal judge for whom an
103 official headquarters is designated in his or her county of
104 residence under this subsection is eligible for subsistence at a
105 rate to be established by the Chief Justice for each day or
106 partial day that the judge is at the headquarters or branch
107 headquarters of his or her appellate district to conduct court
108 business, as authorized by the chief judge of that district
109 court of appeal. The Chief Justice may authorize a judge to
110 choose between subsistence based on lodging at a single-
111 occupancy rate and meal reimbursement as provided in s. 112.061
112 and subsistence at a fixed rate prescribed by the Chief Justice.

113 2. In addition to subsistence, a district court of appeal
114 judge is eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses as
115 provided in s. 112.061(7) and (8) for travel between the judge's
116 official headquarters and the headquarters or branch
117 headquarters of the appellate district to conduct court
118 business.

119 (c) Payment of subsistence and reimbursement for travel
120 expenses between the judge's official headquarters and the
121 headquarters or branch headquarters of his or her appellate
122 district shall be made to the extent that appropriated funds are
123 available, as determined by the Chief Justice.

124 (2) The Chief Justice shall coordinate with each affected
125 district court of appeal judge and other state and local

126 officials as necessary to implement subsection (1).

127 (3) (a) This section does not require a county to provide
128 space in a county courthouse for a district court of appeal
129 judge. A county may enter into an agreement with a district
130 court of appeal governing the use of space in a county
131 courthouse.

132 (b) A district court of appeal may not use state funds to
133 lease space in a county courthouse or other facility to allow a
134 district court of appeal judge to establish an official
135 headquarters pursuant to subsection (1).

136 (4) The Chief Justice may establish parameters governing
137 the authority provided in this section, including, but not
138 limited to, specifying minimum operational requirements for the
139 designated headquarters, limiting the number of days for which
140 subsistence and travel reimbursement may be provided, and
141 prescribing activities that qualify as the conduct of court
142 business.

143 (5) If any term of this section conflicts with s. 112.061,
144 this section shall control to the extent of the conflict.

145 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.