

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE BILL NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: Allows the use of prior public employment of a legislative assistant to determine the total salary available to a legislator for legislative assistants

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:31.5(A)(4), relative to the compensation of legislative
3 assistants; to authorize the use of other public employment to determine the salary
4 authorized for legislative assistants; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 24:31.5(A)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §31.5. Legislative assistants for members

8 A.

9 * * *

10 (4)(a) Each legislative assistant shall perform such duties as the legislator
11 may assign and shall be paid a salary fixed by the legislator, provided that the salary
12 for any one legislative assistant shall not exceed two thousand dollars per month plus
13 the equivalent of one step for each year of his employment as a legislative assistant
14 or the equivalent of one step for each year of the employing legislator's service as a
15 legislator, at the option of the employing legislator. However, for a legislative
16 assistant who has been employed by state government or a political subdivision of
17 the state, the salary for the legislative assistant shall not exceed two thousand dollars
18 per month plus the equivalent of one step for each year of his employment by state
19 government or a political subdivision of the state or the equivalent of one step for
20 each year of the employing legislator's service as a legislator, at the option of the
21 employing legislator.

<u>MONTHLY</u>	
<u>STEP</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Base	\$2,000
First	\$2,083
Second	\$2,169
Third	\$2,259
Fourth	\$2,352
Fifth	\$2,450
Sixth	\$2,551
Seventh	\$2,657
Eighth	\$2,767
Ninth	\$2,881
Maximum	\$3,000

Also provides that a legislator who has the maximum salary step available to him for his legislative assistants shall have a 4% step increase per year available for his legislative assistants.

Present law provides that each legislative assistant shall be paid a salary fixed by the legislator, but the salary for any one legislative assistant cannot exceed \$2,000 per month plus the equivalent of one step for each year of his employment as a legislative assistant or the equivalent of one step for each year of the employing legislator's service as a legislator, at the option of the employing legislator. Further provides that when more than one assistant is employed by a legislator, the total salary for all such assistants shall not exceed \$2,000 per month plus the equivalent of one step for each year of employment as a legislative assistant or the equivalent of one step for each year of the employing legislator's service as a legislator, at the option of the employing legislator. (However, Act No. 68 of the 2007 R.S. provides that in addition to the amounts and limitations provided in R.S. 24:31.5, those appropriated to the legislature shall also be used to provide an additional \$150 per month to the total amount available to each legislator for the salary of his legislative assistants, provided that the additional \$150 per month shall not be used pursuant to present law (R.S. 24:31.5(C)) to determine the full-time status or eligibility for benefits for a legislative assistant. Act No. 68 further provides that notwithstanding the provisions of present law (R.S. 24:31.5), any legislative assistant employed on or before Dec. 1, 2007, may retain the salary he was earning on Dec. 1, 2007, through Aug. 14, 2008.) Present law provides that when part-time help or contractual services are used, the total payments shall not exceed an amount equal to the base salary of a legislative assistant. Permits use of contractual secretarial services in lieu of one or more legislative assistants and permits two or more legislators to cooperatively employ an assistant or assistants, who may be paid in excess of the salary limits prescribed above, but not in excess of the salary limits available to the cooperating legislators.

Proposed law retains present law provisions and additionally provides that when a legislative assistant has been employed by state government or a political subdivision of the state, the total salary for the assistant or, if the legislator employs more than one assistant, for all of his assistants shall not exceed \$2,000 per month plus the equivalent of one step for each year of employment by state government or political subdivision or the equivalent of one step for each year of the employing legislator's service as a legislator, at the option of the employing legislator.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 24:31.5(A)(4))