

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 513 (Delegate Bates, *et al.*)  
Rules and Executive Nominations

---

General Assembly - Legislative Expense Accounts - Donations from Surplus

---

This bill establishes an expense account for a member of the General Assembly and authorizes a member to use any surplus remaining at the end of a fiscal year from the account as a donation to purchase school supplies or textbooks in the district of the member.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** To the extent the bill would allow a member to expend his or her entire district office allowance, the reduction in retained funds would not materially affect the finances of the Department of Legislative Services (DLS).

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** DLS receives and analyzes reimbursement and expense related requests from members of the General Assembly. Under guidelines adopted by the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), the following district office allowances are provided to members:

House and Senate Members	\$18,265
House and Senate Leadership	\$19,736
Delegation Chairmen	\$19,110

The allowance may be used for clerical services, office rent, phones and other equipment, postage, utilities and supplies, and travel. LPC establishes policies governing expenditures generally and sets limits on expenditures for specific items such as furniture, postage, and utilities.

Currently, legislators expend funds from a district account; any unexpended funds allocated to a member may be retained for expenditure in a subsequent budget of the General Assembly.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2005  
mam/ljm

---

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510