SB299

JQL2NNF-1

By Senator Singleton

RFD: County and Municipal Government

First Read: 04-Apr-24

SYNOPSIS:

This bill would provide that the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may expend funds to purchase promotional items, items to recognize achievements, and to purchase meals for staff during training and while the Legislature is in session.

This bill would allow subordinate officers, directors, and employees of the Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency, and the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to be reimbursed up to $500 for expenses paid by the employee in certain circumstances.

Under existing law, the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate have access to certain spaces within the Capitol building and any place outside of the Capitol when the Legislature meets outside the Capitol.

This bill would clarify the particular spaces to which the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency have access.

Under existing law, the Legislature has control

of the usage of portions of streets adjacent to the State Capitol complex and grounds of the State Capitol building; portions of King Street and Pelham Street; the parking lot located across Union Street to the rear of the Capitol; the parking facilities connected to and adjacent to the State House; the lot bounded by Washington, Jackson, Pelham, and South Ripley Streets; and the driveway and parking spaces on the grounds surrounding the Capitol.

This bill would authorize the Legislature to control the entirety of these streets, if closed by the City of Montgomery, and require the Legislature to grant appropriate access to adjacent and surrounding property owners.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to the Legislature; to provide that the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may expend funds to further the mission of the agencies; to allow subordinate officers, directors, and employees of the Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency, and the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts to be

reimbursed for expenses in certain circumstances; to amend Section 29-1-19 and Section 29-1-19.1, as last amended by Act 2023-224, 2023 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, to clarify the particular spaces in the Capitol and other buildings to which the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency have access; and to authorize the Legislature to control the entire portion of certain streets near the State Capitol complex in the City of Montgomery when those streets are closed by the City of Montgomery.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may expend funds to purchase promotional items, items to recognize achievements or otherwise award staff, items to commemorate persons recognized by the Legislature, and to purchase meals for staff during training and while the Legislature is in legislative session.

Section 2. Subordinate officers, directors, and employees of the Legislature, the Legislative Services Agency, and the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, upon approval by the head of the department or agency, may be reimbursed up to five hundred dollars ($500) in expenses personally paid by the officer, director, or employee in costs of goods or services directly related to the officer's, director's, or employee's official position.

Section 3. Section 29-1-19 and Section 29-1-19.1, as

last amended by Act 2023-224, 2023 Regular Session, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§29-1-19

(a) The House of Representatives shall have the use of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space located on the second floor in the south wing of the Capitol. The Senate shall have the use of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space located on the second floor in the north wing of the Capitol. All of ~~said~~ this space shall be for the use of the Legislature~~,~~ and the committees, members, officers, and employees thereof. The Clerk of the House shall have and exercise custody, control, and care of the space ~~herein~~ designated in this subsection for the use of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate shall have and exercise custody, control, and care of the space ~~herein~~ so designated for the use of the Senate.

(b) In addition, the Secretary of the Senate shall have and exercise full custody, control, and care of the Senate chamber and the rooms adjacent thereto on the south side thereof, and the Clerk of the House shall have and exercise full custody, control, and care of the hall of the House of Representatives and the rooms adjacent thereto on the north side thereof, and rooms 213 and 214, and, while the Legislature is in session, room 216~~,~~ in the Capitol building. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall jointly have custody, control, and care of all rooms on the third floor of the Capitol for the use of the Legislature.

(c) In addition, whenever it is deemed necessary for

the Legislature to convene at any place outside of the Capitol, the Clerk of the House shall have the use of and exercise full custody, control, and care of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space ~~on the floor of the building in which~~ assigned to or occupied by the House of Representatives ~~meets or occupies; and~~; the Secretary of the Senate shall have the use of and exercise full custody, control, and care of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space ~~on the floor of the building in which~~ assigned to or occupied by the Senate; ~~meets or occupies~~ and the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency shall have the use of and exercise full custody, control, and care of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space jointly used or occupied by joint legislative staff."

"§29-1-19.1

(a) The Legislature of the State of Alabama may control the usage of a certain portion of those streets adjacent to the State Capitol complex in the City of Montgomery and the grounds of the State Capitol building, viz: That portion of King Street and Pelham Street, lying between Union and Ripley Streets ~~(over which the city has relinquished control)~~; the parking lot located across Union Street to the rear of the Capitol building between the administrative building and highway building and bounded by Union, Ripley, and King Streets and McDowell Lee Lane owned by the Legislative Council of the State of Alabama; the parking facilities connected to

and adjacent to the former Highway Department Building and now designated "the Alabama State House"; all of that lot bounded by Washington, Jackson, and Ripley Streets and McDowell Lee Lane owned by the ~~State of Alabama~~ Retirement Systems of Alabama; and the driveway and parking spaces on the grounds surrounding the Capitol itself, all the aforesaid being exclusive of any right-of-way or rights-of-way or parking facilities ~~now controlled by the City of Montgomery~~.

(b) The Legislature may exercise control over the usage of the areas through the joint parking committee created by Act No. 8, Organizational Session 1975, or its successor, or by subsequent legislative action; and the chief of services of the division of services shall work in cooperation with the Legislature regarding any action taken by the Legislature as hereby authorized.

(c) If any street adjoining property controlled by the Legislature as described in subsection (a) is closed by the City of Montgomery, the Legislature gains control of the entirety of the street, and the Legislature shall grant adjacent and surrounding property owners unimpeded access to their property."

Section 4. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.