

SENATE BILL No. 657

June 23, 2009, Introduced by Senators GILBERT, SANBORN, PAPPAGEORGE and BIRKHOLZ and referred to the Committee on Local, Urban and State Affairs.

A bill to establish travel expenditure limitations for certain local units of government and other local governmental entities; to establish permissible conditions for out-of-state travel; and to establish reporting requirements.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "travel expense responsibility act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Local pension or retirement system" means a program that
5 controls money that funds pension or retirements benefits accrued
6 by employees of a local unit of government.

7 (b) "Local unit of government" means a city, village,

1 township, county, school district, road commission, or any other
2 local governmental unit or entity of this state.

3 Sec. 5. A local unit of government or a local pension or
4 retirement system shall not pay the expenses for a person to travel
5 outside this state from funds under its control unless 1 or more of
6 the following conditions apply to the travel:

7 (a) It is required by legal mandate or court order or for law
8 enforcement purposes.

9 (b) It is necessary to protect the health or safety of
10 Michigan citizens or visitors or to assist other states' similar
11 circumstances.

12 (c) It is necessary to produce budgetary savings or to
13 increase revenues, including protecting existing federal funds or
14 securing additional federal funds.

15 (d) It is necessary to comply with federal requirements.

16 (e) It is necessary to secure specialized training for staff
17 that is essential to performing the duties of the position and is
18 not available within this state.

19 (f) It is financed entirely by federal funds or by private
20 funds granted expressly for the purpose of the travel.

21 Sec. 7. Not later than January 1 of each year, each local unit
22 of government and local pension or retirement system shall prepare
23 a travel report listing all travel outside this state in the
24 immediately preceding fiscal year that was funded in whole or in
25 part with public funds and post the report on an internet website
26 that is available to the general public. The report shall include
27 all of the following information for each travel occurrence:

1 (a) The name of each person receiving reimbursement for travel
2 outside this state or whose travel costs were paid by the reporting
3 governmental agency.

4 (b) The destination.

5 (c) The dates.

6 (d) A brief statement of the reason for the travel.

7 (e) An itemization of the transportation and related costs,
8 including the amount for food, lodging, and vehicle rental and
9 listing the names of hotels, restaurants, vehicle rental agencies,
10 and vehicle models.

11 (f) The total expenses for all out-of-state travel funded
12 during the immediately preceding fiscal year.