



Laura Belin <laurabelin@bleedingheartland.com>

seeking information on per diems

Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>
To: Laura Belin <laurabelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Thu, Oct 27, 2022 at 1:18 PM

During my time as Chief Clerk, no member has returned any portion of the session per diem.

Meghan

Chief Clerk House of Representatives

O: 515.281.5383

E: Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurabelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 12:43 PM
To: Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Re: seeking information on per diems

Even if someone missed a large part of the session?

In your time as chief clerk, has any member of the Iowa House declined to accept all or part of the per diem payment?

On Thu, Oct 27, 2022 at 12:34 PM Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

For the Iowa House, session per diem is paid for the full session. I can't speak for the full Iowa Legislature.

Meghan

Chief Clerk House of Representatives

O: 515.281.5383

E: Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurabelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Re: seeking information on per diems

Meghan, are you saying that when a member of the Iowa legislature misses the entire legislative session, they still receive the full per diem payment?

If a member of the legislature attends part of the session but misses some weeks due to illness or deployment, are you saying they still receive per diem for the whole session?

Under what circumstances are members of the legislature not paid a portion of the per diem allowance?

Laura

On Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 1:07 PM Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

Per Diem is paid for the full time of session.

Meghan

Chief Clerk House of Representatives

O: 515.281.5383

E: Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 11:57 AM

To: Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>

Subject: Re: seeking information on per diems

Now I'm confused again. They receive per diem for the whole session, even if they miss some weeks?

What if they miss the whole session, due to illness or deployment?

On Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 11:51 AM Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

Iowa Code Section 2.10 (1) the second sentence explains how they are paid. Yes, I cannot pay portions of a week, they are paid per diem for the full session. Mileage is paid by the week, if they missed a week they would not be paid for that week.

I will work on a list for you.

Meghan

Chief Clerk House of Representatives

O: 515.281.5383

E: Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Re: seeking information on per diems

Would they be paid the entire per diem if they weren't present for any part of a week?

I'm interested to know how often that has happened and who (if anyone) has returned the per diem payments for weeks they were absent.

On Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 11:10 AM Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

Okay, I will tell you that by Code I am required to pay all per diem. I can't pay partial weeks. I can pay mileage/travel differently. So everyone would be paid per diem, if they want to return the money then that is what you are asking for.

Meghan

Chief Clerk House of Representatives

O: 515.281.5383

E: Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>
Subject: Re: seeking information on per diems

I was only asking about per diem payments. Some members of the Iowa House have been absent for periods during various legislative sessions, due to illness or deployments. I am wondering if they still collected their per diem payments for those weeks.

If anyone collected mileage reimbursements for weeks when they did not attend any legislative proceedings, I would be interested in that as well. I assumed no one was doing that but I shouldn't make that assumption.

Yours,

Laura

On Thu, Oct 20, 2022 at 10:59 AM Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov> wrote:

Ms. Belin,

Can you confirm you are asking about per diem and not mileage? They are two different things. And your email seems to be asking about both but only calling it one thing. I want to make sure that I am answering your questions correctly and providing you all the information.

Thank you,

Meghan

Chief Clerk House of Representatives

O: 515.281.5383

E: Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov

From: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 4:52 PM

To: Nelson, Meghan [LEGIS] <Meghan.Nelson@legis.iowa.gov>

Subject: seeking information on per diems

Dear Chief Clerk Nelson,

I am seeking information on which members of the Iowa House have not accepted per diem payments for all or part of a legislative session.

For each year from 2015 to the present, please send me a list of state representatives who did not claim all of their per diems, indicating which weeks they did not claim the per diem payments.

My understanding is that if a member of the Iowa House was present for part of any given week, the practice was to pay the per diem for that whole week. But if they were absent for an entire week, the practice was not to pay the per diem. Please let me know if that is incorrect.

Yours,

Laura

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