

Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards

Resolution

Whereas, a specific request was made by [name deleted for member confidentiality] to allow him to accept reimbursement from the Chinese Government for out-of-state travel, subsistence and other allowable expenses (under N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24) in excess of \$500 and with the approval of the Senate President;

Whereas, the specific question submitted to the members in a ballot was:

IT IS PERMISSIBLE FOR A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO PAY A LEGISLATOR'S REASONABLE EXPENDITURES, IN EXCESS OF \$500, FOR OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL, SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER.

Whereas, Section I, paragraph 4 of the Joint Committee's Standard Operating Procedures requires the concurrence of at least 5 members to take action;

Whereas, upon submitting the request, ballot and other materials relevant to this request to the members, 2 members voted to approve, 3 members voted to approve with modifications, one member voted to disapprove and one member recused herself. The conditions imposed were: call the attention of the Legislature to the fact that N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24b does not address the issue of foreign governments reimbursing those covered by the statute for allowable out-of-state travel and other expenses in excess of \$500; that the decision of the Joint Committee in this matter not be considered a precedent; and that the expenses, in addition to travel, that may be reimbursed cover the period from November 27, 2009 through November 29, 2009.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chinese Government may reimburse [name deleted for member confidentiality], in an amount in excess of \$500, for travel to and from China, subsistence and other expenses incurred between November 27, 2009 through November 29, 2009, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution decides only the specific request before the Joint Committee and shall not be considered a precedent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Committee shall call the attention of the Legislature to the fact that N.J.S.A. 52:13D-24b does not address the issue of foreign governments reimbursing those covered by the statute for allowable out-of-state travel and other expenses in excess of \$500.