



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RICHMOND

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
FINANCE
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE &
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES

C. TODD GILBERT

POST OFFICE BOX 309
WOODSTOCK, VIRGINIA 22664

MINORITY LEADER

August 19, 2020

The Honorable Suzette Denslow
Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates
House Clerk's Office
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Madam Clerk:

I write to you on behalf of all 44 members of the Virginia House Republican Caucus to inform you that our members wish to forgo the travel-related per diem payment for "virtual" floor sessions that do not involve travel to Richmond or an alternate physical location.

During the August 18th floor session, no House Republican voted in favor of House Resolution 516, the resolution that authorized expenses and per diems for the Special Session. Chairman Torian indicated yesterday that HR 516 authorizes payments of per diem for sessions in which members do not have to be physically present or travel beyond their home.

To wit (emphasis added):

"That members of the House shall receive session per diem for any day they attend a scheduled session of the House during the 2020 Special Session I of the General Assembly at which an attendance roll call is taken. Session per diem shall not be allowed for legislative assistants. Session per diem shall not be allowed for members of the House during a recess of the special session. However, members may receive compensation while the House is in recess, as provided in § 30-19.12 of the Code of Virginia and in the 2020-2022 Appropriation Act, as follows: (i) members of any standing committee of the General Assembly, (ii) members of any committee of conference; or (iii) members of any legislative committee, commission, or council established by the General Assembly."

Again, after discussion, each House Republican member has decided that they will not accept the per diem for travel-related expenses for "virtual" floor sessions. This request does not include taxable income payments made pursuant to in § 30-19.12 of the Code of Virginia, as these are in keeping with standard practice for reimbursements for attendance at meetings throughout the year. These payments have nothing to do with travel expenses such as lodging, meals, or transportation, the traditional and legal standard for a *per diem*. None of these are being incurred by members during a "virtual" session.

If your office requires further documentation from individual members, it will be forthcoming from their offices.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Todd Gilbert".

C. Todd Gilbert
House Republican Leader