Policy and Procedure Memorandum 49

S1501. Authorization and Legal Basis

A. In accordance with the authority vested in the commissioner of administration by Section 231 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes of 1950 and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950-968 as amended, notice is hereby given of the revision of Policy and Procedures Memorandum No. 49, the state general travel regulations, effective July 1, 2001. These amendments are both technical and substantive in nature and are intended to clarify certain portions of the previous regulations or provide for more efficient administration of travel policies. These regulations apply to all state departments, boards and commissions created by the legislature or executive order and operating from funds appropriated, dedicated, or self-sustaining; federal funds; or funds generated from any other source.

B. Legal Basis--L.R.S. 39:231–"The commissioner, with the approval of the governor, shall prescribe rules defining the conditions under which each of various forms of transportation may be used by state officers and employees and used by them in the discharge of the duties of their respective offices and positions in the state service and he shall define the conditions under which allowances will be granted for all other classes of traveling expenses and the maximum amount allowable for expenses of each class."

S1502. DEFINITIONS

A. For the purposes of this PPM, the following words have the meaning indicated.

Authorized Persons

a. advisors, consultants and contractors or other persons who are called upon to contribute time and services to the state who are not otherwise required to be reimbursed through a contract for professional, personal, or consulting services in accordance with R.S. 39:1481 et.seq.

b. members of boards, commissions, and advisory councils required by federal or state legislation or regulation. Travel allowance levels for all such members and any staff shall be those authorized for state employees unless specific allowances are legislatively provided.

Conference/Convention - is herein defined as a meeting for a specific purpose and/or objective. Meetings can be defined as a seminar, conference, convention, or training. Documentation required is a formal agenda, or program, or Letter of Invitation, or registration fee. Participation as an exhibiting vendor in an exhibit /trade show also qualifies as a conference. (For a hotel to qualify for conference rate lodging, requires that the hotel is hosting or is in "conjunction with hosting" the meeting.)

Emergency Travel - under extraordinary circumstances where the best interests of the state require that travel be undertaken not in compliance with these regulations, approval after the fact by the commissioner of administration may be given if appropriate documentation is presented promptly. Each department shall establish internal procedures for authorizing travel in emergency situations.

Extended Stays - of any assignment made for a period of 31 or more consecutive days at a place other than the official domicile.

In-State Travel - all travel within the borders of Louisiana or travel through adjacent states between points within Louisiana when such is the most efficient route.

International Travel - all travel to destinations outside the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Official Domicile - every state officer, employee, and authorized person, except those on temporary assignment, shall be assigned an official domicile.

a. Except where fixed by law, official domicile of an officer or employee assigned to an office shall be, at a minimum, the city limits in which the office is located. The department head or his designee should determine the extent of any surrounding area to be included, such as parish or region. As a guideline, a radius of at least 30 miles is recommended. The official domicile of an authorized person shall be the city in which the person resides, except when the department head has designated another location (such as the person's workplace).

b. A traveler whose residence is other than the official domicile of his/her office shall not receive travel and subsistence while at his/her official domicile nor shall he/she receive reimbursement for travel to and from his/her residence.

c. The official domicile of a person located in the field shall be the city or town nearest to the area where the majority of work is performed, or such city, town, or area as may be designated by the department head, provided that in all cases such designation must be in the best interest of the agency and not for the convenience of the person.

Out-of-State Travel - travel to any of the other 49 states plus District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Per Diem - **a** flat rate paid in lieu of travel reimbursement for people on extended stays.

State Employee - employees below the level of state officer

State Officer

a. state elected officials;

b. department head as defined by Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (secretary, deputy secretary, under secretary, assistant secretary, and the equivalent positions in higher education and the office of elected officials).

Temporary Assignment - any assignment made for a period of less than 31 consecutive days at a place other than the official domicile.

Travel Period - a period of time between the time of departure and the time of return.

Travel Routes - the most direct and usually traveled route must be used by official state travelers. Travelers may opt to use mileage as shown on the " Mileage Table " of Department of Transportation's Official Highway Map, or from a mileage chart provided by their department which has been approved by the Commissioner of Administration. For all other mileage, it shall be computed on the basis of odometer readings from point of origin to point of return. (See Mileage Chart)

Traveler - a state officer, state employee, or authorized person when performing authorized travel.

S1503. General Specifications

A. Department Policies

1. Department heads may establish travel regulations within their respective agencies, but such regulations shall not exceed the maximum limitations established by the commissioner of administration. Three copies of such regulations shall be submitted for prior review and approval by the commissioner of administration. One of the copies shall highlight any exceptions /deviations to PPM 49.

2. Department and agency heads will take whatever action necessary to minimize all travel to carry on the department mission.

3. Contracted Travel Services. **The state has contracted for travel agency services which use is mandatory for airfares unless exemptions have been granted by the Division of Administration prior to travel.** The State also encourages the use of the contracted travel agency to make reservations for hotel and vehicles accommodations, but hotel and vehicles are not a mandatory requirement.

4. When a state agency enters into a contract with an out-of-state public entity, the out-

of-state public entity may have the authority to conduct any related travel in accordance with their published travel regulations.

5. Authorization to Travel

a. All travel must be authorized and approved in writing by the head of the department, board, or commission from whose funds the traveler is paid. A department head may delegate this authority in writing to one designated person. Additional persons within a department may be designated with approval from the commissioner of administration. A file shall be maintained on all approved travel authorizations.

b. An annual authorization for routine travel shall not cover travel between an employee's home and workplace, out-of-state travel, or travel to conferences or conventions.

B. Funds for Travel Expenses

1. Persons traveling on official business will provide themselves with sufficient funds for all routine travel expenses that cannot be covered by the corporate credit card. Advances of funds for travel shall be made only for extraordinary travel and should be punctually repaid when submitting the travel voucher covering the related travel, not later than the fifteenth day of the month following the completion of travel.

2. Exemptions: At the Agency's discretion, cash advances may be allowed for:

a. employees whose salary is less than $30,000/year.

b. employees who applied for the state-sponsored corporate credit card program but were rejected (proof of rejection must be available in agency travel file).

c. employees who accompany and/or are responsible for students on group or client travel.

d. new employees who have not had time to apply for and receive the card.

e. employees traveling for extended periods, defined as 31 or more consecutive days.

f. employees traveling to remote destinations in foreign countries, such as jungles of Peru or Bolivia.

g. advance ticket purchase (until a business travel account with a corporate credit card can be established).

h. registration for seminars, conferences, and conventions.

i. incidental costs not covered by the corporate credit card i.e. taxi fares, tolls, registration fees; conference fees may be submitted on a preliminary request for reimbursement when paid in advance.

j. any ticket booked by a traveler 30 days or more in advance and for which the traveler has been billed, may be reimbursed by the agency to the traveler on a preliminary expense reimbursement request. The traveler should submit the request with a copy of the bill or invoice. Passenger airfare receipt must be attached to the final reimbursement request.

k. employees who infrequently travel or travelers that incur significant out-of-pocket cash expenditures.

3. Expenses Incurred on State Business. Traveling expenses of travelers shall be limited to those expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of a public purpose authorized by law to be performed by the agency and must be within the limitations prescribed herein.

4. State Credit Cards (Issued in the Name of the Agency Only). Credit cards issued in the name of the state agency are not to be used for the purpose of securing transportation, lodging, meals, or telephone and telegraph service, unless prior written permission has been obtained from the commissioner of administration.

5. **NO REIMBURSEMENT WHEN NO COST INCURRED BY TRAVELER.** This includes but is not limited to reimbursements for any lodging and/or meals furnished at a state institution or other state agency, or furnished by any other party at no cost to the traveler. In no case

will a traveler be allowed mileage or transportation when he/she is gratuitously transported by another person.

C. Claims for Reimbursement

1. All claims for reimbursement for travel shall be submitted on state Form BA-12, unless exception has been granted by the commissioner of administration, and shall include all details provided for on the form. It must be signed by the person claiming reimbursement and approved by his/her immediate supervisor. The purpose for extra and unusual travel must be stated in the space provided on the front of the form. In all cases the date and hour of departure from and return to domicile must be shown.

2. Excepting where the cost of air transportation, conference, or seminar is invoiced directly to the agency/department, all expenses incurred on any official trip shall be paid by the traveler and his travel voucher shall show all such expenses in detail to the end that the total cost of the trip shall be reflected by the travel voucher. If the cost of air transportation is paid directly by the agency/department, a notation will be indicated on the travel voucher indicating the date of travel, destination, amount, and the fact that it has been paid by the agency/department. The traveler's copy of the passenger ticket and/or receipt shall be attached to the travel voucher.

3. In all cases, and under any travel status, cost of meals and lodging shall be paid by the traveler and claimed on the travel voucher for reimbursement, and not charged to the state department, unless otherwise authorized by the Division of Administration.

4. Claims should be submitted within the month following the travel, but preferably held until a reimbursement of at least $10 is due. Department heads at their discretion may make the 30 day submittal mandatory on a department wide basis.

5. Any person who submits a claim pursuant to these regulations and who willfully makes and subscribes to any claim which he/she does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter, or who willfully aids or assists in, or procures, counsels or advises the preparation or presentation of a claim which is fraudulent or is false as to any material matter shall be guilty of official misconduct. Whoever shall receive an allowance or reimbursement by means of a false claim shall be subject to severe disciplinary action as well as being criminally and civilly liable within the provisions of state law.

6. Agencies are required to reimburse travel in an expeditious manner. In no case shall reimbursements require more than thirty (30) days to process from receipt of complete, proper travel documentation.

S1504. Methods of Transportation

A. Cost-effective transportation

The most cost-effective method of transportation that will accomplish the purpose of the travel shall be selected. Among the factors to be considered should be length of travel time, employee's salary, cost of operation of a vehicle, cost and availability of common carrier services, etc.

B. Air

1. Common carrier shall be used for out-of-state travel unless it is documented that utilization of another method of travel is more cost-efficient or practical and approved in accordance with these regulations.

2. Before travel by privately-owned or by chartered aircraft is authorized by a department head, the traveler shall certify that: 1) at least one hour of working time will be saved by such travel; and 2) no other form of transportation, such as commercial air travel or a state plane, will serve this same purpose.

a. Chartering a privately-owned aircraft must be in accordance with the Procurement Code.

b. Reimbursement for use of a chartered or unchartered privately-owned aircraft

under the above guidelines will be made on the following basis:

i. at the rate of 30 cents per mile; or

ii. at the lesser of state contract rate or coach economy airfare.

If there are extenuating circumstances requiring reimbursement for other than listed above, approval must be granted by the commissioner of administration.

c. When common carrier services are unavailable and time is at a premium, travel via state aircraft shall be investigated, and such investigation shall be documented and readily available in the department's travel reimbursement files. Optimum utilization will be the responsibility of the department head.

3. Commercial air travel will not be reimbursed in excess of state contract air rates when available, or coach/economy class rates when contract rates are not available. The difference between contract or coach/economy class rates and first class or business class rates will be paid by the traveler. If space is not available in less than first or business class air accommodations in time to carry out the purpose of the travel, the traveler will secure a certification from the airline indicating this fact. The certification will be attached to the travel voucher.

a. The state encourages but does not require use of lowest priced airfares where circumstances which can be documented dictate otherwise. **Lowest logical fares are penalty tickets that can have restrictions and charge penalty fees for changing/canceling ticket purchases. Lowest logical tickets must be purchased from the state's contracted travel agency unless prior approval is granted by the State Travel Office.**

b. Where a stopover is required to qualify for a low-priced airfare, the state will pay additional lodging and meals expense subject to applicable limits where a net savings in total trip expenses results from use of the low-priced airfare. For determining whether there is a savings, the state contract airfare should be used for comparison, or coach/economy fare if there is no contract rate. If additional work time will be lost, then the cost of the traveler's time is to be used in the calculation. The comparison must be shown on the travel voucher.

c. The policy regarding airfare penalties is the state will pay the penalty incurred for a change in plans or cancellation only when the change or cancellation is required by the state. Certification of the requirement for the change or cancellation by the traveler's department head is required on the travel voucher.

d. For international travel only, when an international flight segment is more than 10 hours in duration, the state will allow the business class rate not to exceed 110 percent of the coach rate. The traveler's itinerary provided by the travel agency must document the flight segment as more than 10 hours and must be attached to the travel voucher.

4. A lost airline ticket is the responsibility of the person to whom the ticket was issued. The airline charge of searching and refunding lost tickets will be charged to the traveler. The difference between the prepaid amount and the amount refunded by the airlines must be paid by the employee.

5. If companion fares are purchased for a state employee and non-state employee, the reimbursement to the state employee will be the amount of the lowest logical fare.

6. Contract airfares are to be purchased only through the state's contracted travel agencies and are to be used for official state business. **State contract airfares are non-penalty tickets. Therefore no penalty fees are charged for changes/cancellations, and no restrictions are imposed on flight schedules.** The state contract airfares **cannot** be used for personal/companion or spouse travel. This is a requirement of the airlines and our failure to monitor the use of these contract airfares could cause their cancellation. (Therefore, persons booking tickets for non-official business using contract rates will be subject to disciplinary action as well as payment of the difference between contract fare and full coach fare.)

7. Traveler is to use the lowest logical airfare/state contract whether the plane is a prop or a jet.

8. Frequent Flyer miles and/or bump tickets accumulated from official state business

must be used to purchase tickets for official business. Each individual is solely responsible for notification to their Agency or Department.

9. In order for the State to continue to receive State contracted airfares, it is necessary that the contract carrier be utilized when electing to use state contract rates. When using the Contract Airfares there are no restrictions or penalties. In many cases, airlines that did not win an award for a certain city will now offer the same discounted price that was awarded to the contract vendor. This is known as a matched carrier. Matched carriers are not to be used unless there is two or more hours difference in the departure or arrival time. The State does not have a contract with the matched fare carriers; therefore, we do not have last seat availability and certain rules including cancellation penalties will apply to these fares. **NOTE: Some carriers are now offering matched fares at the base cost, plus a surcharge for fuel. This is not considered a matched fare.** Once the decision is made not to use the contract fare you are giving up your option for the non-penalty ticket, and must use the lowest logical fare available.

10. When making airline reservations for a conference, inform the travel agency that you are attending a conference giving the name of the conference and the airline that is offering the discount rate, if available. In many instances, the conference registration form specifies that certain airlines have been designated as the official carrier offering discount rates. If so, giving this information to our contracted agencies could result in them securing that rate for your travel.

11. Use of Corporate Card (currently American Express)

a. The State Travel Office contracts an official state corporate card to form one source of payment for travel. All travelers or agencies shall make application through the State Travel Office.

b. The corporate card or BTA (Business Travel Account) **must be used to purchase contract airfare. This is a mandatory requirement by the airlines in order to continue to receive discount, non penalty state contract airline tickets.**

c. The corporate card is the liability of the employee and not the state. **An employee terminating state service must request their agency have their card cancelled.** A retiree may no longer retain his/her card.

C. Motor Vehicle

1. No vehicle may be operated in violation of state or local laws. No traveler may operate a vehicle without having in his/her possession a valid U.S. driver's license.

2. Safety restraints shall be used by the driver and passengers of vehicles. All accidents, major and minor, shall be reported first to the local police department or appropriate law enforcement agency. An accident report form, available from the Office of Risk Management (ORM) of the Division of Administration, should be completed as soon as possible and returned to ORM, together with names and addresses of principals and witnesses. Any questions about this should be addressed to the Office of Risk Management of the Division of Administration. These reports shall be in addition to reporting the accident to the Department of Public Safety as required by law.

3. State-Owned Vehicles

a. All purchases made on state gasoline credit cards must be signed for by the approved traveler making the purchase. The license number, the unit price, and quantity of the commodity purchased must be noted on the delivery ticket by the vendor. Items incidental to the operation of the vehicle may be purchased via state gasoline credit cards only when away from official domicile on travel status. In all instances where a credit card is used to purchase items or services which are incidental to the operation of a vehicle, a copy of the credit ticket along with a written explanation of the reason for the purchase will be attached to the monthly report mentioned in this subsection. State-owned credit cards will not be issued to travelers for use in the operation of privately-owned vehicles.

b. Travelers in state-owned automobiles who purchase needed repairs and equipment while on travel status shall make use of all fleet discount allowances and state bulk purchasing contracts where applicable. Each agency/department shall familiarize itself with the existence of such

allowances and/or contracts and location of vendors by contacting the Purchasing Office, Division of Administration.

c. The travel coordinator/officer/user of each state-owned automobile shall submit a monthly report to the department head, board, or commission indicating the number of miles traveled, odometer reading, credit card charges, dates, and places visited.

d. State-owned vehicles may be used for out-of-state travel only if permission of the department head has been given prior to departure. If a state-owned vehicle is to be used to travel to a destination more than 500 miles from its usual location, documentation that this is the most cost-effective means of travel should be readily available in the department's travel reimbursement files.

e. Unauthorized persons should not be transported in state vehicles. Approval of exceptions to this policy may be made by the traveler's supervisor if he determines that the best interest of the state will be served and if the passenger (or passenger's guardian) signs a statement acknowledging the fact that the state assumes no liability for any loss, injury, or death resulting from said travel.

4. Personally-Owned Vehicles

a. When two or more persons travel in the same personally-owned vehicle, only one charge will be allowed for the expense of the vehicle. The person claiming reimbursement shall report the names of the other passengers.

b. A mileage allowance shall be authorized for travelers approved to use personally-owned vehicles while conducting official state business. Mileage shall be reimbursable on the basis of **30 cents** per mile. **(SEE ACCEPTABLE MILEAGE CHART INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE).**

c. An employee shall never receive any benefit from not living in his / her official domicile. In computing reimbursable mileage to an authorized travel destination from an employee's residence outside the official domicile, the employee is always to claim the lesser of the miles from their official domicile or from their residence. If an employee is leaving on a non-work day or leaving significantly before or after work hours, the department head may determine to pay the actual mileage from the employee's residence.

d. The department head or his designee may approve an authorization for routine travel for an employee who must travel in the course of performing his/her duties; this may include domicile travel if such is a regular and necessary part of the employee's duties, but not for attendance at infrequent or irregular meetings, etc. Within the city limits where his/her office is located, the employee may be reimbursed for mileage only.

e. Reimbursements will be allowed on the basis of **30 cents** per mile to travel between a common carrier/terminal and the employee's point of departure, i.e. home, office, etc., whichever is appropriate and in the best interest of the state.

f. When the use of a privately-owned vehicle has been approved by the department head for out-of-state travel for the traveler's convenience, the traveler will be reimbursed for in-route expenses on the basis of **30 cents per mile only**. The total cost of the mileage may not exceed the cost of travel by State Contract air rate or lowest logical if no contract rate is available. The traveler is personally responsible for any other expenses in-route to and from destination which is inclusive of meals and lodging. If a traveler, at the request of the department, is asked to take their personally owned vehicle out-of-state for a purpose that will benefit the agency, then the department head may on a case-by-case basis determine to pay a traveler for all / part of in-route travel expenses. File should be justified accordingly.

g. When a traveler is required to regularly use his/her personally-owned vehicle for agency activities, the agency head may request authorization from the commissioner of administration for a lump sum allowance for transportation or reimbursement for transportation (mileage). Request for lump sum allowance must be accompanied by a detailed account of routine travel listing exact mileage for each such route. Miscellaneous travel must be justified by at least a three-month travel history to include a complete mileage log for all travel incurred, showing all

points traveled to or from and the exact mileage. Requests for lump sum allowance shall be granted for periods not to exceed one fiscal year.

h. The traveler shall be required to pay all operating expenses of the vehicle including fuel, repairs, and insurance.

5. Rented Motor Vehicles

a. Written approval of the department head prior to departure is required for the rental of vehicles. Such approval may be given when it is shown that vehicle rental is the only or most economical means by which the purposes of the trip can be accomplished. In each instance, documentation showing cost effectiveness of available options must be readily available in the reimbursement files. This authority shall not be delegated to any other person.

b. Only the cost of rental of a compact model is reimbursable, unless 1) non-availability is documented, 2) the vehicle will be used to transport more than two persons or 3) the cost of a larger vehicle is no more than the rental rate for a compact.

c. Insurance billed by car rental companies is not reimbursable for domestic travel. At the discretion of the department head, CDW costs only may be reimbursed for international travel. Following are some of the insurance packages available by rental vehicle companies that are not reimbursable:

1. Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) – should a collision occur while on official state business, the cost of the deductible should be paid by traveler and reimbursement claimed on a travel expense voucher. The accident should also be reported to the Office of Risk Management.
2. Loss Damage Waiver (LDW)
3. Personal Accident Insurance (PAC) – employees are covered under workmen's compensation while on official state business.
4. Auto Tow Protection (ATP)
5. Emergency Sickness Protection (ESP)
6. Supplement Liability Insurance (SLI)

d. Any personal mileage or rental days on a vehicle rented for official state business is not reimbursable and shall be deducted.

e. Reasonable gasoline cost is reimbursable – but not mileage on a rental vehicle. Receipts are required.

D. Public Ground Transportation

The cost of public ground transportation such as buses, subways, airport limousines, and taxis is reimbursable when the expenses are incurred as part of approved state travel. Taxi reimbursement is limited to $15 per day without receipts; claims in excess of $15 per day require receipts to account for total daily amount claimed.

S1505 Lodging and Meals

A. Eligibility

1. Official Domicile/Temporary Assignment - Travelers are eligible to receive reimbursement for travel only when away from "official domicile" or on temporary assignment unless exception is granted in accordance with these regulations. Temporary assignment will be deemed to have ceased after a period of thirty-one calendar days, and after such period the place of assignment shall be deemed to be his/her official domicile. He/she shall not be allowed travel and subsistence unless permission to extend the thirty-one day period has been previously secured from the commissioner of administration.

2. Travel Period - Travelers may be reimbursed for meals according to the following schedule:

a. breakfast: When travel begins at/or before 6 a.m. and extends beyond 9 a.m. on single day travel; or when travel begins at/or before 6 a.m. on the first day of travel or extends

beyond 9 a.m. on the last day of travel, and for any intervening days.

b. lunch: Reimbursement shall **only** be made for lunch when 1) travel extends over at least one night or 2) if traveler is in travel status for 12 hours or more in duration. If travel extends overnight, lunch may be reimbursed for those days where travel begins at/or before 10 a.m. on the first day of travel, or extends beyond 2 p.m. on the last day of travel, and for any intervening days.

c. dinner: When travel begins at/or before 4 p.m. and extends beyond 8 p.m. on single day travel; or when travel begins at/or before 4 p.m. on the first day of travel or extends beyond 8 p.m. on the last day of travel and for any intervening days.

3. Alcohol - reimbursement for alcohol is prohibited.

B. Exceptions

1. **Twenty Five Percent Over Allowances** - Department heads may allow prior approval for their employees to exceed the lodging and meals provisions of these regulations by no more than **twenty five** percent on a case-by-case basis. Each case must be fully documented as to necessity (e.g. proximity to meeting place) and cost effectiveness of alternative options. Documentation must be readily available in the department's travel reimbursement files. This authority shall not be delegated to any other person. Reimbursement requests must be accompanied by receipt.

2. **Actual Expenses for State Officers** - State officers and others so authorized by statute (See Definitions under Authorized Persons) or individual exception will be reimbursed on an actual expenses basis for meals and lodging except in cases where other provisions for reimbursement have been made by statute. The request for reimbursement must be accompanied by a receipt or other supporting documents for each item claimed and shall not be extravagant and will be reasonable in relationship to the purpose of the travel. State officers entitled to actual expense reimbursements are only exempted from meals and lodging rates; they are subject to the time frames and all other requirements as listed in the travel regulations.

C. Traveler's Meals (Including Tax and Tips)

Travelers may be reimbursed up to the following amounts for meals.

	In-State	O/S Incl. N.O.	High Cost & NYC
Breakfast	**$6**	**$ 6**	**$8**
Lunch	**$8**	**$ 9**	**$10**
Dinner	**$12**	**$14**	**$19**
	$26	**$29**	**$37**

Receipts are not required for routine meals within these allowances. Number of meals claimed must be shown on travel voucher. **Partial meals such as continental breakfasts or airline meals are not considered meals.** If meals of state officials exceed these allowances, receipts are required.

D. Conference Meals

Cost of meals direct billed to agency in conjunction with state-sponsored in-state conferences **exclusive of tax and mandated gratuity.**

Lunch In-State excluding New Orleans	**$10**
Lunch - New Orleans	**$12**

Conference Refreshment Expenditures:

Cost for a meeting, conference or convention are to be within the following rates: (note: refreshment expenses are not applicable to an individual traveler)

served on agency's property: not to exceed **$2.00** per person, per morning and/or afternoon sessions

served on offsite properties that require catered services: not to exceed **$3.50 exclusive of tax and mandated gratuity per person**, per morning and/or afternoon sessions

E. Lodging (Employees will be reimbursed lodging rate, plus tax, Receipt Required)

$55 In-state (except as listed)
$65 Baton Rouge
$70 Bossier City, Lake Charles, Shreveport
(Sulphur will be considered a suburb of Lake Charles)
$90 New Orleans, (Gretna, Kenner, Metairie will be considered a suburbs of New Orleans, **for lodging only**)
$65 Out-of-State (except those listed)
$105 High cost (Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, Oakland, Ca., Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland,Or., San Diego, St. Louis, Seattle, Tampa, Fl., Wilmington, De., all of Alaska or Hawaii)
$120 Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C.
$165 New York City

The inclusion of suburbs shall be determined by the department head on a case-by-case basis.

F. Conference Lodging (Employees will be reimbursed lodging rate, plus tax, Receipt Required)

1. Travelers may be reimbursed expenses for conference hotel lodging per the following rates, if the reservations are made at the actual conference hotel. When reservations are not available at the conference hotel and multi-hotels are offered in conjunction with a conference, traveler shall seek prices and utilize the least expensive. In the event all conference hotels are unavailable, then the traveler is subject to making reservations within the hotel rates as allowed in Section E, above.

$65 In-state (except as listed))
$70 Baton Rouge
$80 Bossier City, Lake Charles, Shreveport
$110 New Orleans, state sponsored conferences
$140 out-of-state and New Orleans for non-state sponsored conferences
$165 New York City

**The inclusion of suburbs shall be determined by the department head on a case-by-case basis*

2. For Conferences hosted by the state you must either use the state contracted travel services or solicit three (3) competitive quotes to include sleeping rooms, meeting rooms, meals and breaks, etc.

3. No reimbursements are allowed for functions not relating to a conference, i.e. tours, dances, etc.

G. Extended Stays - For travel assignment involving duty for extended periods (31 or more consecutive days) at a fixed location, the reimbursement rates indicated should be adjusted downward whenever possible. Claims for meals and lodging may be reported on a per diem basis supported by lodging receipt. Care should be exercised to prevent allowing rates in excess of those required to meet the necessary authorized subsistence expenses. It is the responsibility of each agency head to authorize only such travel allowances as are justified by the circumstances affecting the travel.

S1506. Parking and Related Parking Expenses

1. Parking for the Baton Rouge Airport - actual expense will be paid up to a maximum daily allowance of $3.50. No receipt required. (**NOTE:** current contract rate is available from the Baton Rouge Airport Parking for the outside, fenced lot. Not in the parking garage).

2. Parking for the New Orleans Airport - actual expense will be paid up to a maximum daily allowance of $6.00. No receipt required. Park 'N Fly : $6.00 daily and $36.00 weekly.

3. Travelers using motor vehicles on official state business will be reimbursed for reasonable storage fees, for all other parking except as listed in #1 and #2 above, ferry fares, and road and bridge tolls. For each transaction over $5, a receipt is required.

4. Tips for valet parking not to exceed $1 per in and $1 per out, per day.

S1507. Reimbursement for Other Expenses

The following expenses incidental to travel may be reimbursed:

1. Communications Expenses :

a. For official state business – all costs (receipts required for over $3).

b. For domestic overnight travel - up to $3 in personal calls upon arrival at each destination and up to $3 for personal calls every second night after the first night if the travel extends several days.

c. For international travel – up to $10 in personal calls upon arrival at each destination and up to $10 for personal calls every second night after the first night if the travel extends several days.

d. Internet access charges from hotels – any department that wants to have a policy in this area should submit their request to the Division of Administration – Commissioner's Office for approval.

2. Charges for storage and handling of state equipment.

3. Baggage Tips :

a. Hotel Allowances - Not to exceed $1 per bag for a maximum of three (3) bags. Tips may be paid one time upon each hotel check-in and one time upon each hotel check-out, if applicable.

b. Airport Allowances - Not to exceed $1 per bag for a maximum of three (3) bags. Tips may be paid one time for the airport outbound departure trip and one time for the inbound departure trip.

4 Registration fees at conferences (meals that are a designated integral part of the conference may be reimbursed on an actual expense basis with prior approval by the department head).

5. Laundry services - employees on travel for more than seven days up to 14 days are eligible for $20 of laundry services, and for more than 14 days up to 21 days an additional $20 of laundry services, and so on. Receipts must be furnished.

S1508. Special Meals

A. Reimbursement designed for those occasions when, as a matter of extraordinary courtesy or necessity, it is appropriate and in the best interest of the state to use public funds for provision of a meal to a person who is not otherwise eligible for such reimbursement and where reimbursement is not available from another source.

1. Visiting dignitaries or executive-level persons from other governmental units, and persons providing identified gratuity services to the state. This explicitly does not include normal visits, meetings, reviews, etc, by federal or local representatives.

2. Extraordinary situations are when state employees are required by their supervisor to work more than a twelve-hour weekday or six-hour weekend (when such are not normal working hours to meet crucial deadlines or to handle emergencies).

B. All special meals must have prior approval from the commissioner of administration in order to be reimbursed, unless specific authority for approval has been delegated to a department head for a period not to exceed one fiscal year with the exception in C, as follows.

C. A department head may authorize a special meal within allowable rates to be served in conjunction with a working meeting of departmental staff.

D. In such cases, the department will report on a semi-annual basis to the commissioner of administration all special meal reimbursements made during the previous six months. These reports must include, for each special meal, the name and title of the person receiving reimbursement, the name and title of each recipient, the cost of each meal and an explanation as to why the meal was in the best interest of the state. Renewal of such delegation will depend upon a review of all special meals authorized and paid during the period. Request to the commissioner for special meal authorization must include, under signature of the department head:

1. name and position/title of the state officer or employee requesting authority to incur expenses and assuming responsibility for such;
2. clear justification of the necessity and appropriateness of the request.
3. names, official titles or affiliations of all persons for whom reimbursement of meal expenses is being requested;
4. statement that allowances for meal reimbursement according to these regulations will be followed unless specific approval is received from the commissioner of administration to exceed this reimbursement limitation.

All of the following must be submitted for review and approval of the department head or their designee prior to reimbursement:

1. detailed breakdown of all expenses incurred, with appropriate receipts(s);
2. subtraction of cost of any alcoholic beverages.
3. copy of prior written approval from the commissioner of administration.

S1509. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

A. All international travel must be approved by the commissioner of administration prior to departure, unless specific authority for approval has been delegated to a department head. Requests for approval must be accompanied by a detailed account of expected expenditures (such as room rate/date, meals, local transportation, etc.), the funding source from which reimbursement will be made, and an assessment of the adequacy of this source to meet such expenditures without curtailing subsequent travel plans.

B. International travelers will be reimbursed the high cost area rates for lodging and meals, unless U.S. State Department rates are requested and authorized by the commissioner of administration prior to departure. Receipts are required for reimbursement of meals and lodging claimed at the U.S. State Department rates.

S1510. WAIVERS

The commissioner of administration may waive in writing any provision in these regulations when the best interest of the state will be served.