



Legislative Coordinating Commission

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TO: Members of the Legislative Coordinating Commission

FROM: Diane Henry -Wangenstein
Greg Hubinger

RE: LCC Public Lodging Limits

Background. The LCC in-state lodging limit for public members is currently \$110, including taxes and fees. The determination of this limit was an average of the House and Senate lodging limits (\$120, \$100) as set in 2009.

Since that time, the federal lodging rate for metro area has increased by 20% from \$121 to \$145. Public members appointed by the Executive Branch to commissions do not have a limit: public members submit reimbursement for "reasonable" lodging expenses.

The LCC recently surveyed downtown St. Paul hotels and the surrounding area to determine their current lodging rate, and if they provide a discounted rate. Summarized results from the survey are shown below. Attached are the survey details. Only one downtown St. Paul hotel had a rate including taxes and fees that was below the current \$110 limit, with the average lodging cost at \$152.

The LCC currently provides fiscal services for 33 commissions and task forces, of which 12 commissions are composed of a mix of legislators and citizens, or all public members. The total of all public lodging cost for all commissions/task forces was approximately \$18,000 in fiscal Year 2016. Increasing the maximum rate to the average rate (\$152), would cost an additional \$7,000 for a projected total annual lodging cost of \$25,000 for all commissions/task forces.

Hotel Area	Per Night Discount Lodging Rate	
	Rate Range	Ave Rate including Tax
Downtown St. Paul	\$101 - \$216	\$152
Within 13 mile radius	\$82 - \$216	\$151

Recommendation. We recommend raising the public lodging rate to \$150. The projected additional cost to the LCC would be approximately \$6,500 for all commissions/task forces (approximately \$3,500 from General Funds, \$3,000 from non-General Funds).

This increase would be helpful to citizens who dedicate their time to assist the work of the legislature.

Legislative members' lodging limit would continue to be based on the limits set by the House and Senate Rules committees. Currently, the House lodging limit is \$125 and the Senate lodging limit is \$100.