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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would provide that the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may expend any available funds to purchase promotional items, items to recognize achievements and commemorate persons, and to purchase meals for staff in certain circumstances.

This bill would provide that an agency, department, board, bureau, commission, committee, institution, corporation, authority, or office of this state may expend public funds to purchase promotional items as necessary to carry out its statutory duties, to commemorate persons, and to purchase meals for staff during training and while in extended work sessions.

Under existing law, the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate have access to certain spaces within the Capitol building and any place outside of the Capitol when the Legislature meets outside the Capitol.

This bill would clarify the particular spaces to which the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency have access.



29 Under existing law, the Legislature has control  
30 of the usage of portions of streets adjacent to the  
31 State Capitol complex and grounds of the State Capitol  
32 building; portions of King Street and Pelham Street;  
33 the parking lot located across Union Street to the rear  
34 of the Capitol; the parking facilities connected to and  
35 adjacent to the State House; the lot bounded by  
36 Washington, Jackson, Pelham, and South Ripley Streets;  
37 and the driveway and parking spaces on the grounds  
38 surrounding the Capitol.

39 This bill would authorize the Legislature to  
40 control the entirety of these streets, if closed by the  
41 City of Montgomery, and require the Legislature to  
42 grant appropriate access to adjacent and surrounding  
43 property owners.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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50 Relating to the Legislature; to add Section 29-4-7 to  
51 the Code of Alabama 1975; to provide that the Secretary of the  
52 Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the  
53 Director of the Legislative Services Agency, and the Chief  
54 Examiner of the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts may  
55 expend any available funds to further the mission of the  
56 agencies in certain circumstances; to allow an agency,



57 department, board, bureau, commission, committee, institution,  
58 corporation, authority, or office of this state may expend  
59 public funds to further the mission of the agencies in certain  
60 circumstances; to amend Section 29-1-19 and Section 29-1-19.1,  
61 as last amended by Act 2023-224, 2023 Regular Session, Code of  
62 Alabama 1975, to clarify the particular spaces in the Capitol  
63 and other buildings to which the Clerk of the House of  
64 Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Director  
65 of the Legislative Services Agency have access; and to  
66 authorize the Legislature to control the entire portion of  
67 certain streets near the State Capitol complex in the City of  
68 Montgomery when those streets are closed by the City of  
69 Montgomery.

70 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

71 Section 1. Section 29-4-7 is added to the Code of  
72 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

73 §29-4-7

74 The Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of  
75 Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Services  
76 Agency, and the Chief Examiner of the Department of Examiners  
77 of Public Accounts may expend any available funds to purchase  
78 promotional items, items to recognize achievements or  
79 otherwise award staff, items to commemorate persons recognized  
80 by the Legislature, and to purchase meals for staff during  
81 training and while the Legislature is in legislative session  
82 with a certification that the staff were required or expected  
83 to work extended hours or through a regular meal time. Meals  
84 and other items provided pursuant to this section shall be



85 limited to amounts that comply with United States Internal  
86 Revenue Service guidance on de minimis fringe benefits.

87 Section 2. An agency, department, board, bureau,  
88 commission, committee, institution, corporation, authority, or  
89 office of this state may expend public funds for the purchase  
90 of promotional items of nominal value for the purpose of  
91 carrying out its statutory duties, items to commemorate  
92 persons recognized for achievement or exceptional performance,  
93 and to purchase meals for staff during training or extended  
94 work sessions. Meals and other items provided pursuant to this  
95 section shall be limited to amounts that comply with United  
96 States Internal Revenue Service guidance on de minimis fringe  
97 benefits.

98 Section 3. Section 29-1-19 and Section 29-1-19.1, as  
99 last amended by Act 2023-224, 2023 Regular Session, Code of  
100 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

101 "§29-1-19

102 (a) The House of Representatives shall have the use of  
103 all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable  
104 space located on the second floor in the south wing of the  
105 Capitol. The Senate shall have the use of all offices, rooms,  
106 corridors, lavatories, and other usable space located on the  
107 second floor in the north wing of the Capitol. All of ~~said~~  
108 this space shall be for the use of the Legislature, ~~and~~ the  
109 committees, members, officers, and employees thereof. The  
110 Clerk of the House shall have and exercise custody, control,  
111 and care of the space ~~herein~~-designated in this subsection for  
112 the use of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of



113 the Senate shall have and exercise custody, control, and care  
114 of the space ~~herein-so~~ designated for the use of the Senate.

115 (b) In addition, the Secretary of the Senate shall have  
116 and exercise full custody, control, and care of the Senate  
117 chamber and the rooms adjacent thereto on the south side  
118 thereof, and the Clerk of the House shall have and exercise  
119 full custody, control, and care of the hall of the House of  
120 Representatives and the rooms adjacent thereto on the north  
121 side thereof, and rooms 213 and 214, and, while the  
122 Legislature is in session, room 216~~r~~ in the Capitol building.  
123 The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall  
124 jointly have custody, control, and care of all rooms on the  
125 third floor of the Capitol for the use of the Legislature.

126 (c) In addition, whenever it is deemed necessary for  
127 the Legislature to convene at any place outside of the  
128 Capitol, the Clerk of the House shall have the use of and  
129 exercise full custody, control, and care of all offices,  
130 rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other usable space ~~on the~~  
131 ~~floor of the building in which~~ assigned to or occupied by the  
132 House of Representatives ~~meets or occupies; and;~~ the Secretary  
133 of the Senate shall have the use of and exercise full custody,  
134 control, and care of all offices, rooms, corridors,  
135 lavatories, and other usable space ~~on the floor of the~~  
136 ~~building in which~~ assigned to or occupied by the Senate; ~~meets~~  
137 ~~or occupies~~ and the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the  
138 Senate, and the Director of the Legislative Services Agency  
139 shall have the use of and exercise full custody, control, and  
140 care of all offices, rooms, corridors, lavatories, and other



141 usable space jointly used or occupied by joint legislative  
142 staff."

143 "§29-1-19.1

144 (a) The Legislature of the State of Alabama may control  
145 the usage of a certain portion of those streets adjacent to  
146 the State Capitol complex in the City of Montgomery and the  
147 grounds of the State Capitol building, viz: That portion of  
148 King Street and Pelham Street, lying between Union and Ripley  
149 Streets ~~(over which the city has relinquished control)~~; the  
150 parking lot located across Union Street to the rear of the  
151 Capitol building between the administrative building and  
152 highway building and bounded by Union, Ripley, and King  
153 Streets and McDowell Lee Lane owned by the Legislative Council  
154 of the State of Alabama; the parking facilities connected to  
155 and adjacent to the former Highway Department Building and now  
156 designated "the Alabama State House"; all of that lot bounded  
157 by Washington, Jackson, and Ripley Streets and McDowell Lee  
158 Lane owned by the ~~State of Alabama~~ Retirement Systems of  
159 Alabama; and the driveway and parking spaces on the grounds  
160 surrounding the Capitol itself, all the aforesaid being  
161 exclusive of any right-of-way or rights-of-way or parking  
162 facilities ~~now controlled by the City of Montgomery~~.

163 (b) The Legislature may exercise control over the usage  
164 of the areas through the joint parking committee created by  
165 Act No. 8, Organizational Session 1975, or its successor, or  
166 by subsequent legislative action; and the chief of services of  
167 the division of services shall work in cooperation with the  
168 Legislature regarding any action taken by the Legislature as



169 hereby authorized.

170 (c) If any street adjoining property controlled by the  
171 Legislature as described in subsection (a) is closed by the  
172 City of Montgomery, the Legislature gains control of the  
173 entirety of the street, and the Legislature shall grant  
174 adjacent and surrounding property owners unimpeded access to  
175 their property."

176 Section 4. This act shall become effective on October  
177 1, 2024.