

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INSURANCE LEGISLATORS
BUDGET COMMITTEE
2025 NCOIL ANNUAL MEETING – ATLANTA, GA
November 14, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES

The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) Budget Committee met at the Whitley Hotel in Atlanta, GA on Friday, November 14, 2025 at 4:45 PM.

NCOIL Treasurer, Representative Edmond Jordan (LA), presided.

Other members of the Committee present were:

Rep. Michael Meredith (KY)
Rep. Brenda Carter (MI)
Rep. Brian Lampton (OH)
Sen. Mary Felzkowski (WI)

Other legislators present were:

Rep. Matt Lehman (IN)
Sen. Lana Theis (MI)
Sen. Paul Utke (MN)
Asw. Pamela Hunter (NY)
Sen. George Lang (OH)
Rep. Carl Anderson (SC)

Also in attendance were:

Will Melofchik, NCOIL CEO
Anne Kennedy, NCOIL General Counsel
Pat Gilbert, Director of Policy, Administration & Member Services, NCOIL Support Services, LLC

MINUTES

Upon a Motion made by Rep. Brenda Carter (MI), and seconded by Rep. Michael Meredith (KY), the Committee voted without objection by way of a voice vote to adopt the minutes of the Committee's July 16, 2025 meeting in Chicago, IL.

CONSIDERATION OF 2026 NCOIL BUDGET

Rep. Edmond Jordan (LA), NCOIL Treasurer and Chair of the Committee, thank everyone for joining and stated that we're here today to consider NCOIL's 2026 budget. You should have a copy of the proposed budget before you along with a document showing the organization's 2025 financials as of October 31st and a document showing year end 2024 and 2023 financials. As a reminder, the Committee met in July during our Summer Meeting where we were provided the proposed budget, and we had the opportunity to go through it and ask any questions. Before we vote on the budget, I'll turn things over to Will Melofchik, NCOIL CEO, for some brief remarks.

Mr. Melofchik stated as you can see with the financials as of October 31, NCOIL is having another strong year. With the budget for next year, nothing has changed since the Committee's discussion in July. The only open item we have from that meeting that we wanted to resolve here

was the discussion around whether it would make sense to waive or reduce the meeting registration fee for legislators. Staff was instructed to crunch some numbers so the Committee could see what that would look like. Using last year's attendance numbers, and granted these can fluctuate, if you waive the fee entirely you are looking at about a \$70,000 reduction and if you lower the fee to \$250 that would be about a \$50,000 reduction. So those are some numbers to think about. I know there was split thinking in July with a feeling that you kind of get what you pay for and the optics of making it free may not look the best, but we could also start with reducing the fee to see if that would lead to a slight uptick in attendance - or we keep it status quo. I'll say from the staff level at the office, we've never received a complaint that the registration fee has been too high. Sometimes we hear of scenarios that with things such as cross country flights, the stipend or scholarship may not always cover all travel expenses but that is fairly rare now that we increased the reimbursement amount to \$1,500 in travel expenses plus the registration fee.

Rep. Meredith stated one other thing that I thought about since the discussion in July is that I don't know if the dollar amount makes a difference truthfully as far as participation goes. I know some other state legislative organizations bill the state directly for registration fees instead of the individual legislator so instead of having to do a direct reimbursement, the state takes care of it. I'm not sure what it's like in other states, but that works for us in Kentucky so that may be a possibility.

Mr. Melofchik stated I think that differs state by state so it might be a little tricky knowing what the mechanism is in every state. Rep. Jordan stated in Louisiana they cannot do it that way. Sen. Paul Utke (MN), NCOIL Vice President, stated it does not work that way in Minnesota so I agree with Mr. Melofchik that it differs state by state. Rep. Carl Anderson (SC) stated they could not do that in South Carolina.

Asw. Pamela Hunter (NY), NCOIL President, stated that based on our conversations at the last Budget Committee Meeting and during the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Exercise, we need to think about this through the lens of increasing membership and getting more legislators to come. A thought that I had was we have 70 legislators from 30 states attend usually and even if it was all 50 states participating and you got two members per state, that's 100 legislators. Based on that, I'd think the maximum amount of total attendees would be about 500 people. We are purposefully more niche and not like other state legislative organizations. People are still coming at the current price and my thought is what is the purpose of reducing the price if we already have people coming and we have stipends and scholarships to offer. We're in good times and I think it was good to go through this exercise, but we need to have that plateau plan and think about the maximum amount of people who are going to come here. In my thought process, strategically, we need to look at that. I don't think removing the registration fee is a mechanism that will entice many more people to come.

Rep. Matt Lehman (IN) stated one of the concerns I have is that there are people who took the stipends or scholarships but never attended the meetings. I'm thrilled that we now have to add a second row of legislator seating at meetings, but if something is free and you go to a destination location are you going to attend the meetings since it isn't costing you anything and you aren't really accountable for being at the meetings? So we potentially set up a problem with the value of attending if we remove the registration fee.

Rep. Jordan stated that to Asw. Hunter's point, it's hard to justify lowering the fee when we are having record attendance. I think this is the most well attended NCOIL Meeting we've ever had. I do think we are trending in the right direction. There may be some tweaks we can make to have registration easier, but I don't think we need to look at removing the fee right now.

Asw. Hunter stated Rep. Lehman's point is a good one. It's good to have a mandatory amount of meetings that someone has to attend because they need to have skin in the game and there is a real concern that people will just use the stipends and scholarships as a free trip.

Sen. Mary Felzkowski (WI) agreed with Asw. Hunter and stated that in Wisconsin, we just turned down stipends on some legislators that attended a conference and didn't go to any events.

Sen. George Lang (OH) stated that if you do make any tweaks, please make them voluntary.

Sen. Lana Theis (MI) stated I like the accountability aspect. In our meeting minutes, do we list who attended? Asw. Hunter stated yes and we sign the attendance sheets at each committee meeting. Mr. Melofchik agreed with Asw. Hunter and stated that a component of legislators getting reimbursed is them certifying they attended a certain number of meetings. Everyone at this Committee meeting almost attends every meeting at our conferences so that's not a problem, but for some we have to make sure they meet that requirement.

Rep. Anderson stated I agree that we should maintain things as they are now.

Hearing no further question or comments, upon a motion made by Rep. Carter and seconded by Rep. Meredith, the Committee voted without objection via a voice vote to adopt the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, upon a motion made by Rep. Brian Lampton (OH) and seconded by Sen. Felzkowski, the Committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.