

DATE: June 17, 2016

TO: Agency Addressed (No. 43, 2015-2016)

FROM: Christina Smith, Director
Division of Accounting and Auditing
Department of Financial Services

SUBJECT: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CHAPTER 2016-62, LAWS OF FLORIDA.

This memorandum supersedes Agency Addressed Memorandum No. 11, 2008-2009 and provides guidance on the travel restrictions imposed by Chapter 2016-62, Laws of Florida.

Each travel voucher or other attached documentation must contain a statement describing how the travel activity is critical to the agency's mission.

For any travel voucher that seeks payment for travel to foreign countries, other states, conferences, staff-training activities, or other administrative functions, the voucher must contain evidence of the agency head's determination that such travel activities are critical to the agency's mission.

In order to make this process more efficient, each agency head may provide a signed memorandum setting forth his or her determination as to the types of activities that he or she deems mission-critical that require travel to foreign countries, other states or the District of Columbia, conferences, staff-training activities, or administrative functions. A copy of the determination memorandum can be sent to the Bureau of Auditing with a request to keep on file otherwise a copy should be included with each voucher that seeks payment for travel activities falling within any of these five categories.

In approving any travel as being mission-critical, each agency head or his or her designee must identify in writing how the travel is consistent with the agency head's determination memorandum and state that he or she has considered the use of teleconferencing and other forms of electronic communication as an alternative to the travel.

In addition, each travel voucher or Purchasing Card charge that seeks payment for lodging associated with a meeting, conference, or convention organized or sponsored by an agency may not exceed the traveler's daily room rate of \$150. For clarification,

- an agency is deemed to have sponsored a meeting, conference or convention if they contributed money for the meeting, conference, or convention. Money provided for a traveler's registration fee or for an Agency's membership fee to the organization hosting the conference or convention is not deemed as sponsorship.
- an agency is deemed to have organized a meeting, conference or convention if they are involved in selecting the location or planning the activities to be conducted.

To minimize the impact to employees, managers need to verify compliance with lodging rate restrictions before authorizing the employee to incur travel expenses. An employee will be required to expend his or her own funds for any daily room rate including associated taxes that exceed the \$150 per day restriction.

The lodging restrictions do not apply to travel activities for conducting business external to the agency including but not limited to audit, investigation, litigation or examination. However, where daily room rate for these activities exceed \$150 travelers are reminded that the most economical use is required in all situations. Travelers should be prepared to justify costs that appear excessive, pursuant to the Reference Guide for State Expenditures (http://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/AA/Manuals/Auditing/Reference_Guide_For_State_Expenditures.pdf).

This memorandum shall not apply to travel activities undertaken for law enforcement purposes, military purposes, emergency management activities or public health activities.