

Member State Cars

Each Senator may request an automobile during their term of office. The Accounting office will work directly with the dealer and the Member's office to purchase their car. Once the Senate owns the car, the Member's personal obligation is calculated using a two-or four-year payment program, and that amount is payroll deducted each month. The two program options are explained below.

Two-Year Program

The Rules Committee will pay up to \$500 maximum or 90% of the monthly cost (whichever is less), and Senators will pay a minimum of 10% or the amount in excess of \$500 as their personal responsibility. The depreciation rate is 2.4% under this program. *For example, if the purchase price of a car is \$30,000, the Member's monthly payroll deduction would be \$226.* This payment will be recomputed according to the California Citizens Compensation Commission's resolution of June 30, 2009.

Four-Year Program

The Rules Committee will pay up to \$350 maximum or 90% of the monthly cost (whichever is less), and Senators will pay a minimum of 10% or the amount in excess of \$350 as their personal responsibility. The depreciation rate is 1.2% under this program. *For example, if the purchase price of a car is \$30,000, the Member's monthly payroll deduction would be \$42.* This payment will be recomputed according to the California Citizens Compensation Commission's resolution of June 30, 2009.

In December 2009, the State Controller's Office began re-computing the State's Vehicle Portion to implement the California Citizens Compensation Commission's resolution of June 30, 2009. As a result, the State Controller's Office reduced the State's Vehicle Portion by 18% and increased the Member's Vehicle Portion by an equal amount.

Gasoline

Each Senator with a Senate car is entitled to a gasoline credit card to purchase gasoline and oil. The Senate gasoline credit card can also be used for minor emergency repairs if these charges do not exceed \$50.

Car Maintenance

Automobile maintenance on a Senate-owned car is paid by the Senate.

Insurance

The State of California Motor Vehicle Liability Program protects the state, all state agencies, including the Senate, and state officers, employees, and servants for liability arising from the ownership of motor vehicles or the operation of motor vehicles on official state business. There is no maximum limit of liability under this program. The Department of General Services has arranged to self-insure Senate-owned automobiles for full damage coverage, including fire, theft, comprehensive, and collision for the total use of the car.

In addition, the Senate Rules Committee and the State of California require that Senators purchase public liability and property damage insurance for the occasional personal use of the Senate vehicle. This insurance must be in effect during the entire period the Senator has use of the automobile. Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance for non-legislative use should be in the amount of \$250,000 / \$500,000 / \$100,000. In most cases, "broad form coverage of non-owned vehicle" can be extended to cover the Senate car if the Senator has an existing policy for a personal vehicle.