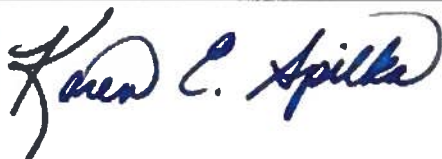


**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

	ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of elected public employee:	Karen E. Spilka
Title/ Position	Senate President and State Senator (Middlesex and Norfolk District)
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts State Senate
Agency address:	Massachusetts State House 24 Beacon Street, Room 332 Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	617-722-1500
Office e-mail:	Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov
Write an X to confirm each statement.	I am filing this disclosure because: ☒ I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and ☒ A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.
	ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	I have been invited to travel to Ireland and Northern Ireland with other elected officials from across the United States to participate in a Legislative Study Tour, organized by the National Conference of State Legislatures, titled Conflict Resolution in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I will travel to Dublin and Belfast with other state lawmakers to, among other things: (i) learn about and understand the history of The Troubles and the Good Friday Agreements that resolved the long-running conflict between Catholics and Protestants; (ii) meet with a key member of the team that negotiated the Good Friday Agreements; (iii) participate in conflict resolution and negotiation training; (iv) participate in a conflict resolution simulation; (v) visit Stormont, Northern Ireland's legislative assembly, and meet with Northern Ireland legislators; and (vi) visit Ireland's Parliament and attend a meeting with the Foreign Ministry.
Date, time and location of activity.	August 9-August 14, 2026 <u>Dublin, Ireland:</u> The Mont Hotel, 1-4 Merrion Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 H525, Ireland <u>Belfast, Northern Ireland:</u> The Culloden Estate 142 Bangor Rd, Holywood BT18 0EX, United Kingdom
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	My participation on this trip will provide me with insight and practical strategies into how to successfully bring together divided communities and bridge different viewpoints, all of which will support my efforts to reduce political polarization and to strengthen and build community amongst the diverse residents of the

	Commonwealth. This experience will further my efforts as a legislative leader to build political consensus at the state and local levels. Moreover, this trip will strengthen the strong cultural and trade relationships between the Commonwealth, Ireland, and Northern Ireland and inform my work on behalf of the Commonwealth and its residents as a Senator and President of the Massachusetts State Senate.
	TRAVEL EXPENSES
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	National Conference of State Legislatures
Address of person or organization.	7700 E. First Place Denver, CO 80230
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	<i>Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:</i>
Transportation:	<i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i>
Lodging:	<i>Overnight accommodations.</i>
Meals:	<i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i>
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i>
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i>
Total:	I will file a reconciliation form once I receive the final amounts being covered by NCSL.
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	☐ I have attached the relevant itinerary. ☒ I have attached the relevant agenda.
For the exemption to apply, check off both statements.	Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that: ☒ Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND ☐ Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.
Employee signature:	

Date:

August 5, 2026

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

Elected regional school committee member – file with the clerk or secretary of the committee.



NCSL

LEADERS

AGENDA Dublin and Belfast

Sunday, Aug. 9	
Morning	Arrive in Dublin Check in at Dublin hotel: The Mont Hotel, 1-4 Merrion Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 H525, Ireland <i>Official check in time at the hotel is 3:00pm. The hotel will check in guests earlier if possible but cannot guarantee it. You are welcome to store luggage at the front desk.</i>
Afternoon	Free time to explore Dublin, get some rest
4-5 p.m.	Registration Find us in the Mont Hotel lobby
5:15 p.m.	Meet in hotel lobby, walk to dinner together
5:30-7:30 p.m. <i>F.X. Buckley 1A Pembroke Street Lower</i>	Opening Dinner – F.X. Buckley Steakhouse Pembroke Street Get to know the legislative leaders who will be joining you for our week in Ireland and Northern Ireland, plus meet a few of our key partners from the Irish government!
Monday, Aug. 10	
Morning	Breakfast at the hotel (included with your room)
9 a.m.	Depart from Dublin The bus will be departing at 9 a.m. sharp, please be on time!
11 a.m.	Arrive in Belfast – Culloden Estate
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:15 p.m.	Historical Roots of The Troubles Understanding the roots of this conflict is crucial to understanding the peace process. Our local expert will help you build the historical foundation upon which the rest of the week's conversations will be built. <i>Speaker: Dr. Jonny Byrne, Ulster University</i>
1:30 p.m.	Bus Departs Hotel
2 p.m.	Arrive at Clonard Monastery Our venue for the afternoon, this monastery is situated along a key border between Catholic and Protestant communities. During the Troubles, it served as a safe location for early conversations between leaders of the two sides, which helped kickstart the peace process.

2 p.m.	Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Training – Setting the Scene We begin by looking at conflict itself: what it is, how it escalates, and how each of us instinctively responds to it. Using Glasl's model of escalation and a short personal conflict style exercise, you'll leave with a clearer picture of where conflicts sit, why they intensify, and your own default habits when the temperature rises. We'll also introduce PAUSE, a simple framework for settling yourself in the moment before you respond, which underpins everything that follows. <i>Speaker: Enda Young, Centre for Negotiation and Leadership</i>
3 p.m.	Meeting with Monica McWilliams Hear from one of the key negotiators of the Good Friday Agreement to learn what it took to get those crucial negotiations across the finish line. <i>Speaker: Monica McWilliams, former member of Stormont, co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition</i>
4 p.m.	Tour Belfast Peace Walls Experience the peace walls that have divided neighborhoods in Belfast for decades, led by a former Northern Irish prisoner from the Troubles era.
6 p.m.	Bus Return to Culloden Estate (optional drop off in Belfast city center)
Evening	Free Evening – dinner on your own

Tuesday, Aug. 11	
Morning	Breakfast at hotel (included with your room)
9 a.m.	Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Training – The Skills of Resolution
11:15 a.m.	Bus Departs Hotel
11:30-1:30 p.m.	Visit to Stormont, Featuring Lunch and Roundtables with N.I. Legislators Stormont is home to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the legislative body for Northern Ireland established under the Belfast Agreement 1998 (Good Friday Agreement). <i>Business professional attire</i>
1:30 p.m.	Bus Departs Stormont
2 p.m.	Visit City Life Centre This community center is housed in a converted warehouse that literally straddles a major dividing line in Belfast between the two communities that have been divided and torn apart by decades of religious and political conflict. Here, you'll meet with families of victims and hear about their experiences during and after the Troubles.
4:30 p.m.	Bus Return to Culloden Estate (optional drop off in Belfast city center)
Evening	Free Evening – dinner on your own

Wednesday, Aug. 12	
Morning	Breakfast at hotel (included with your room)
8:30 a.m.	Bus Departs
9 a.m.	Arrive at Hillsborough Castle

All Day	Excursion to Hillsborough Castle The official British royal residence in Northern Ireland, and the site where crucial negotiations on the Good Friday Agreements took place. The castle will serve as the setting for our conflict resolution simulation.
9 a.m.	Castle Tour
10 a.m.	Conflict Resolution Simulation Exercise Legislative leaders will participate in a conflict resolution simulation throughout the morning and afternoon. For guests, Hillsborough Castle has arranged a series of tours/activities during the morning. Sponsors have the option to participate in the simulation or the castle tours.
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch All attendees will regroup for lunch together
Afternoon	Leaders - Conflict Resolution Simulation Exercise Legislative leaders will complete the simulation in the afternoon. Guests will board buses with the options of drop off in downtown Belfast or at Culloden Estate. Sponsors have the option to go with either group.
5 p.m.	Simulation Concludes, Legislators Bus to Downtown Belfast or Culloden Estate
Evening	Free Evening – dinner on your own

Thursday, Aug. 13	
Morning	Breakfast at the hotel and check out
9:30 a.m.	Bus Departs for return to Dublin
11:30-2 p.m.	Tour of Parliament, Lunch, Meeting with Irish Foreign Ministry Explore the historic Leinster House, home of the Oireachtas (Ireland's Parliament). Our hosts have arranged a tour, lunch, and a meeting with the Foreign Ministry. <i>Business casual attire</i>
Afternoon	Free Afternoon to explore Dublin Check in is available at our Dublin hotel starting at 3 p.m. The Mont Hotel, 1-4 Merrion Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 H525, Ireland
5:50 p.m.	Meet in hotel lobby, walk to dinner
6 p.m. 41 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, D02 VY49	Closing Dinner – The Grayson Cap off our time together in Ireland with a lively dinner in a beautiful location!

Friday, Aug. 14	
Morning	Depart Ireland

