

74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rules

MEASURE: SB 700 B
CARRIER: Rep. Rosenbaum
Rep. Berger

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote: 7 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Hunt, Roblan, Thatcher, Rosenbaum
Nays: -
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 6/4, 6/20, 6/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Public Officials Compensation Commission to recommend salaries of legislators and other elective officers. Requires the Governor to include Commission-recommended salaries in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Requires the Legislative Assembly to consider the salary recommendations. Increases membership of the Commission from seven to 11, with six members to be voters selected at random by the Secretary of State. Establishes Commission meeting and reporting timelines. Repeals current statutory salary provisions effective July 1, 2009. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expenses of public officials
- Pay of judges
- Schedule of meetings of the proposed Commission
- Necessary Constitutional change for Commission's recommendations to go into effect automatically
- Motives for public service and persons who can "afford" to be legislators
- Work of the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature (2005-2006)
- Definition of public official's "relative" and "member of household" who could not serve on Commission

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes provisions authorizing report to 2008 Special Session. Postpones repeal of statutory salary provisions to July 1, 2009. Changes Commission's reporting deadline to November 10. Further defines persons not eligible to serve on the Commission.

BACKGROUND: Oregon's Public Officials Compensation Commission was created by the Legislative Assembly in 1983. The seven-member commission had the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding the salaries of legislators, the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, and judges from the Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, Circuit Court, and Tax Court. Based on the recommendations of the Compensation Commission, the Legislative Assembly was to set salaries for the elected officials and legislators. The terms of the last members of the commission expired in August 2000.

Other states, including Washington, Delaware, Arizona, and Minnesota, have compensation commissions or councils that either set salaries or make recommendations for legislative consideration. Recently, the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature reviewed the structure and mandate of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials and recommended that Oregon's compensation commission be revived.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.