

# House Joint Resolution 6

Sponsored by Representative BERGER (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Proposes revision of Oregon Constitution relating to compensation of elected public officials.  
Refers proposed revision to people for their approval or rejection at next primary election.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas the compensation of major elected officials of this state is best set by a group of disinterested individuals that understands the needs of the state, the demands of public office and the need for appropriate levels of compensation to draw qualified people to public office; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, two-thirds of all the members of each house concurring:**

**PARAGRAPH 1.** The Constitution of the State of Oregon is revised by creating new sections 15 and 15a to be added to and made a part of Article IX, such sections to read:

**SECTION 15. (1) Salaries for members of the Legislative Assembly, the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and judges of the supreme court, court of appeals, circuit courts and tax court shall be established by an independent commission created by law for that purpose. An individual who holds an office or position the salary of which is established by the commission may not be a member of the commission until the individual has been out of the office or position for at least 24 months.**

**(2) A report that lists the salaries established by the commission shall be filed with the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on or before November 15 of each even-numbered year and shall become law on July 1 of the odd-numbered year following the filing unless, by May 1 of that odd-numbered year, the Legislative Assembly passes a bill rejecting all of the salaries and the bill is enacted and takes effect on or before July 1 of that odd-numbered year. If the salaries are not rejected as described in this subsection, the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds to pay in full the salaries established by the commission for the biennium beginning July 1. If the salaries are rejected as described in this subsection, no change in then-existing salaries may be made before the commission establishes and reports the salaries in the next even-numbered year, and the Legislative Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds to pay in full the then-existing salaries for the biennium beginning July 1.**

**(3) The salaries established under this section supersede salaries established under any other provision of law for members of the Legislative Assembly, the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and judges of the supreme court, court of appeals, circuit courts and tax court. The salaries of these elected officials in effect on the effective date of this section remain in effect until changed under this section.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1           (4) The salary of each individual who holds an office or position for which the salary is  
2 established by the commission may not be diminished during the term for which the indi-  
3 vidual is elected.

4           **SECTION 15a.** (1) Section 15 of this Article is repealed on June 30, 2017, unless, at the  
5 regular general election held in 2016, a majority of the electors voting on the question of  
6 whether or not to retain section 15 of this Article as part of the Oregon Constitution votes  
7 to retain the section. If a majority of the electors voting on the question votes to retain  
8 section 15 of this Article, section 15 of this Article remains in effect. If a majority of the  
9 electors voting on the question votes not to retain section 15 of this Article, section 15 of  
10 this Article is repealed on June 30, 2017.

11           (2) The Legislative Assembly and the Secretary of State shall take appropriate action to  
12 ensure that the question described in subsection (1) of this section is submitted to the people  
13 for their approval or rejection at the regular general election held in 2016.

14           (3) This section is repealed on January 1, 2018.

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16           PARAGRAPH 2. The revision proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people  
17 for their approval or rejection at the next primary election.