

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Atkinson, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin

Nays: -

Exc.: Burdick

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/10, 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes fixed levels of salary for statewide elected officials. Establishes salary of members of Legislative Assembly at one step below the maximum salary range in Management Service Compensation Plan in the Executive Branch or percentage of salary of Circuit Court judge. Limits duties of Public Officials Compensation Commission to making recommendations to Legislative Assembly on salaries of elected officials. Declares emergency, effective on July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of the Public Officials Compensation Commission in establishing salaries for legislators and other elective officials
- Current economic circumstances
- Maintaining competitive salaries for elected officials
- Establishment of salaries for judges and connection to legislative salaries

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon's Public Officials Compensation Commission (POCC) 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.

Senate Bill 700 (2007) reestablished the POCC and directed the commission to recommend salaries for legislators and other elective officers. The Commission-recommended salaries were required to be included in the Governor's 2009-11 Recommended Budget and be submitted for legislative action before the current statutory salary provisions sunset on July 1, 2009.

Senate Bill 778 will maintain current statutory salaries levels for legislatures, legislative leadership, and other elective offices, and retain the legal authority to pay legislators after July 1, 2009.

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