



Kansas Legislative Research Department

Providing nonpartisan, objective research and fiscal analysis for the Kansas Legislature since 1934

68-West-Statehouse | 300 SW 10th Ave. | Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504
(785) 296-3181

kslegres@klrd.ks.gov

kslegislature.org/klrd

December 1, 2020

To: Legislative Budget Committee

From: Amy Deckard, Assistant Director for Fiscal Affairs

Re: History of the Legislative Compensation Committee

The Legislative Compensation Commission (Commission) was created by the 1998 enactment of SB 514 and codified in KSA 46-3101. The Commission is composed of seven members, one member each of which is appointed by the President, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the Senate; the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the House; and the Governor.

No one appointed to the Commission may be a registered lobbyist, a member of the Legislature, or a member of the Legislature within two years of the date of appointment. Of the members first appointed, the terms of the members appointed by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Governor are for four years. The terms of the other four appointees are two years. Thereafter, all members serve four-year terms. Terms first began on July 1, 1998. The member appointed by the Governor serves as the chairperson of the Commission. The Commission meets on call of the chairperson or on the request of four members. All official actions require a majority vote of the Commission. The Commission studies the compensation and expense allowances and reimbursement of members of the Legislature. The Commission meets in even-numbered years and submits the report of its recommendations to the Legislative Coordinating Council and Governor by no later than December 1 of the even-numbered year. If implementation of the Commission's recommendation requires legislation, a bill containing the recommendation is introduced at the commencement of the next legislative session. In order for the bill to become effective, it must be enacted by no later than February 1 of the odd-numbered year of introduction.

History of the Commission Activities

The Commission met for three days during the 1998 Interim and recommended the 1999 Legislature pass legislation (to be effective commencing in the 2001 Session) that would set legislative compensation at an annual rate of \$18,000 (replacing both per diem compensation (\$72.06 per day) and interim expense allowance). For new legislators, it would base participation in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) on actual annual rate of compensation, rather than annualization of the daily rate of compensation. For continuing members of the Legislature, KPERS would continue on in the same form. In addition, the Commission recommended legislators whose districts encompassed all or portions of more than one county receive vouchered mileage reimbursement for travel to meetings related to the

members' legislative responsibilities when the Legislature is not in session and when the in-district meetings are held in a county other than the one of the member's residence.

Legislation was introduced during the 1999 Session to implement the Commission's recommendations. None of the introduced legislation was enacted.

While the legislation that created the Commission restricted meetings to even-numbered years, the Legislative Coordinating Council authorized the Commission to meet as a special committee during the 1999 Interim. The Commission reaffirmed the recommendations from the 1998 Interim and added a recommendation that the recommendations of the Commission regarding legislative compensation automatically take effect unless rejected by either chamber by February 1.

The Commission met for two days during the 2000 Interim and recommended the 2001 Legislature pass legislation (to be effective commencing in the 2003 Session) that would set legislative compensation at an annual rate of \$24,000 (replacing both per diem compensation (\$72.06 per day) and interim expense allowance). For new legislators, it would base participation in KPERS on actual annual rate of compensation, rather than annualization of the daily rate of compensation or participating in a state deferred compensation plan beginning in January 2003. For continuing members of the Legislature, KPERS would continue on in the same form. The Legislative Coordinating Council recommended introduction of legislation proposed by the Commission.

Current Status of the Commission

The Commission has not met since 2000 and is included in the list of committees that require Legislative Coordinating Council authorization to meet based on the proviso contained in the annual budget bill.