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SENATE BILL NO. 1219

Senate Amendments in [] - January 28, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact § 30-19.11 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 30 an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 30-19.21 and 30-19.22, relating to General Assembly; Legislator Compensation Commission established.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Reeves

Referred to Committee on Rules

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 30-19.11 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 30 an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 30-19.21 and 30-19.22, as follows:

Article 1.

Salaries and Expenses Generally.

§ 30-19.11. Salaries of Speaker of House of Delegates and members of General Assembly.

The Speaker of the House of Delegates and all other members of the General Assembly shall each receive an annual salary as shall be set forth in the general appropriations appropriation act. Such salaries shall be payable not more often than biweekly.

Article 2.

Legislator Compensation Commission.

§ 30-19.21. Legislator Compensation Commission; purpose; establishment; membership; staffing.

A. The Legislator Compensation Commission (the Commission) is established in the legislative branch of state government. The Commission shall convene every four years for the purpose of reviewing the salaries, expense allowances, retirement benefits, and other emoluments received by members of the General Assembly and making recommendations for any adjustments to such salaries or allowance amounts.

B. The Commission shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed as follows:

1. Two former members of the Senate of Virginia, with equal representation given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of members in the Senate, appointed by the Joint Rules Committee;

2. Two former members of the House of Delegates, with equal representation given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of members in the House of Delegates, appointed by the Joint Rules Committee; and

3. Five nonlegislative citizen members, of whom one shall be appointed by the Governor, one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, one shall be appointed by the House Minority Leader, one shall be appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, and one shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

C. Appointments of Commission members shall be made no later than July 1 of the year in which a gubernatorial election is scheduled. Members shall serve until the submission of the report required pursuant to § 30-19.22 and may be reappointed to any subsequent convening of the Commission. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.

D. Commission members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825 for reasonable and necessary expenses that are incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this article.

E. Staff support to the Commission shall be provided jointly by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Additional assistance shall be provided by the staffs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

§ 30-19.22. Powers and duties; report.

A. The Commission shall convene every four years in the year in which a gubernatorial election is scheduled for the purpose of reviewing the salaries, expense allowances, retirement benefits, and other emoluments received by members of the General Assembly. In conducting its review, the Commission shall (i) review the current salaries, expense allowances, retirement benefits, and any other emoluments for members of the General Assembly; (ii) examine the Commonwealth's history of legislative compensation; (iii) gather information regarding the compensation, expenses, and benefits for legislative service in other states; (iv)

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59 *assess various state methodologies for determining reasonable legislative compensation, including tying*
60 *salaries to certain indexes or economic indicators; and (v) seek assistance and input of legislators and other*
61 *citizens by conducting surveys or holding public hearings as may be appropriate.*

62 *B. The Commission shall determine whether any adjustments to the salaries, expense allowances,*
63 *retirement benefits, or other emoluments are indicated and shall submit its findings and recommendations in*
64 *a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 1 of the year following a*
65 *gubernatorial election.*

66 *C. Any adjustments made to the salaries, expense allowances, or other emoluments or benefits that are*
67 *recommended by the Commission and included in a budget bill that is subsequently adopted by the General*
68 *Assembly shall not be effective until January 1 of the year immediately following the general election for all*
69 *members of the General Assembly.*

70 **[2. That the initial appointment of members to the Legislator Compensation Commission established**
71 **pursuant to § 30-19.21 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall take place within 30 days**
72 **of the effective date of this act.]**