

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB1059

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 07, 2012
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Avery
One Liner: Adopt the State Officers Compensation Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Christensen, Fischer, Flood, Karpisek, Nelson, Pahls, Wightman
Nay:		
Absent:	2	Senators Langemeier, Lathrop
Present Not Voting:		

Proponents:

Senator Bill Avery
Adam Morfeld

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraskans For Civic Reform

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Frank Daley

Representing:

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Section 1.

Create the State Officers Compensation Act.

Section 2.

Intent language: To foster competitive salary and compensation for state officers and members of the Legislature, to form an independent commission to make recommendations regarding such compensation and to authorize participation by officers and members of the Legislature in state employee benefit plans.

Section 3.

Definitions section.

Section 4.

The Director of Research shall be in charge of maintaining staff, supplies, etc., to assist the commission in the development of policies, procedures and reports for the study and review of salaries, travel expenses, per diems, and other compensation. The director shall also maintain a web site with information pertaining to the commission.

Section 5.

Beginning January 31, 2013, a six-member commission shall be established. Two members shall be appointed from each of the three legislative caucuses.

Section 6.

Sets forth the eligibility requirements for commission members.

Section 7.

Provides that members of the commission may not campaign for elective office, participate in or contribute to a political campaign or hold or campaign for the Legislature or a state office or two years after the end of his or her term.

Sections 8.

Sets forth the legislative approval process of commission members and a process for appointment of a nonvoting chairperson.

Section 9.

The commission shall review salaries, travel expenses, and other compensation of state constitutional officers and members of the Legislature. By October 1 of odd-numbered years, the commission shall prepare a report of preliminary findings and recommendations and shall hold at least three state-wide public hearings.

The commission may not make recommendations which have the effect of reducing salaries, travel expenses, per diems or other compensation, but may make neutral recommendations or recommend no increase.

The commission can not make recommendations relating to health, retirement, disability or dental benefits for state constitutional officers or members of the Legislature, but may consider such benefits.

The commission shall present final recommendations in the form of a final singular report.

Section 10.

If the commission recommends an increase to salaries, travel expenses, per diems, and other compensation of constitutional officers or members of the Legislature, then legislative bills shall be drafted accordingly and shall reflect the necessary increase over the budget amounts in the appropriations bill. The bill or bills shall be introduced by the Executive Board on behalf of the commission.

The commission may prepare technical amendments, but no member or committee of the Legislature may propose an amendment unless it has been prepared by the committee, nor may any substantive provision of the legislative bill or bills be altered or severed by any amendment.

The Executive Board shall hold a public hearing on the bills or bills.

Section 11.

Creates the State Officers Compensation Fund to provide for staff, supplies, facilities, software, and other materials for the commission. The Director of Research shall administer the fund.

Section 12.

Requires members of the Commission to file a statement of financial interests.

Section 13.

Requires members of the Commission to file a conflict of interest statement if a potential conflict arises.

Section 14.

Repeals original sections.

John Wightman, Chairperson