

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LR25CA

Hearing Date: Monday February 24, 2025
Committee On: Executive Board
Introducer: Hansen
One Liner: Constitutional amendment to change the compensation of members of the Legislature and provide for health insurance

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 9 Senators Hansen, Arch, Ballard, Bostar, Dorn, Fredrickson, Ibach, Jacobson, McKinney
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Ben Hansen
Heidi Uhing
Gavin Geis
Cindy Maxwell Ostdiek
Corrie Day
Jennifer Creager

John Hansen

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Civic Nebraska
Common Cause
Non Partisan Nebraska
Nebraska Civic Engagement Table
Greater Omaha Chamber; Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Farmers Union

Opponents:

Josephine Litwinowicz

Representing:

Higher Power Church

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

At the general election in November 2026, voters would be given an opportunity to increase the salary of members of the Legislature to the state minimum wage and provide state funded health benefits equivalent to Medicaid.

SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY:

Sec. 1: At the general election in November 2026, the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval or rejection.



Amend Article III-7 to read: Beginning January 6, 2027, each member of the Legislature shall be paid at the rate of the state minimum wage set by law . . . and shall receive health insurance paid by the state with equivalent benefits to those offered by Medicaid in effect at the beginning of the term of office of the most recently elected members.

Sec. 2: The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the manner prescribed by the Constitution of Nebraska, Article XVI, section 1, with the following ballot language: "A constitutional amendment to change the salary of members of the Legislature to thirty thousand dollars per year. For Against."

Explanation of amendments:

As amended with AM256, LR25CA creates a legislative compensation commission to determine compensation for members of the legislature. The question will be placed on the ballot for the 2026 General Election and will impact Senators beginning in 2029.

SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY:

Sec. 1: At the general election in November 2026, the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of Nebraska shall be submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska for approval or rejection:

Amend Article III-7 to read Beginning January 3, 2029, the compensation of the members of the Legislature shall be established by a nonpartisan, independent legislative compensation commission established by law. The members of the commission shall not include any current or former member of the Legislature, the spouse of any current or former member of the Legislature, any current or former employee of the Legislature, any current or former lobbyist who was registered as a lobbyist in Nebraska, any current or former judge of any court in Nebraska, any current or former statewide elected official of Nebraska, or any current or former state employee of Nebraska.

Sec. 2: The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the manner prescribed by the Constitution of Nebraska, Article XVI, section 1, with the following ballot language: "A constitutional amendment to provide for a nonpartisan, independent legislative compensation commission to establish the compensation of members of the Legislature."

Ben Hansen, Chairperson

