

Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Auditor of Public Accounts and the Treasurer and before each regular session of the legislature held on an odd numbered year the commission will make recommendations concerning any adjustments in compensation that it deems appropriate. The next step is that the Legislature may then only approve or reject or lower, but can not raise any recommendation. Following the approval, it will go into effect at the beginning of the next regular session of the Legislature. Now because this plan will allow compensation rates to be adjusted every two years it is necessary to provide exception to Article 3, Section 19 of the Constitution which generally deals with the probations of the Legislature increasing or decreasing compensation to any public officer during his term of office. The other required change to an existing constitutional provision would be to amend Article 3, Section 7 to remove the restrictions and compensation from members of the Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 99. Senator Nichol first, then Senator Kahle and then Senator Murphy. Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, Senator Reutzel, since some of us didn't hear the hearing and the introduction was brief, the public voted on salaries and so forth last time. For those who testified why did they think that the public would go for something of this nature this time?

SENATOR REUTZEL: I suppose, Senator Nichol, that everyone has their own philosophy as to what will or what will not work. If we ask all 49 of us in here we would probably come up with 49 different ways. One of the reasons that this is different in that it might be agreeable by the public, we are addressing not only legislative salaries but I think more importantly we are addressing the entire concept of how salaries for government officials are set. This brings into this commission all three branches of government; legislative, executive and judicial. I think to do anything less is really a sham. I think that the public is probably tired of year after year of the Legislature coming forward saying we should make this amount of money or we should get this amount of expense. This will solve the problem. I had a handout this morning which will indicate that a majority of states have gone for this type of commission. Probably because of the same reason that they are tired of year after year, the public is tired of year after year having to vote on this and it cost a tremendous