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HOUSE BILL 2288

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 1st Special  
Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Mielke, Kristiansen, DeBolt, Alexander and Holmquist

Read first time . Referred to .

1            AN ACT Relating to the citizens' commission on salaries for elected  
2 officials; amending RCW 43.03.300 and 43.03.310; and providing a  
3 contingent effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.03.300 and 1986 c 155 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7            The legislature hereby declares it to be the policy of this state  
8 to base salaries of elected state officials on realistic standards in  
9 order that such officials may be paid according to the duties of their  
10 offices and so that citizens of the highest quality may be attracted to  
11 public service. It is the purpose of RCW 43.03.300 through 43.03.310  
12 to effectuate this policy by creating a citizens' commission to  
13 establish proper salaries for such officials(~~(, thus removing political~~  
14 ~~considerations in fixing the appropriateness of the amount of such~~  
15 ~~salaries))~~).

16            **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.03.310 and 1998 c 164 s 1 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18            (1) The citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials

1 shall study the relationship of salaries to the duties of members of  
2 the legislature, all elected officials of the executive branch of state  
3 government, and all judges of the supreme court, court of appeals,  
4 superior courts, and district courts, and shall fix the salary for each  
5 respective position.

6 (2) Except as provided otherwise in RCW 43.03.305 and this section,  
7 the commission shall be solely responsible for its own organization,  
8 operation, and action and shall enjoy the fullest cooperation of all  
9 state officials, departments, and agencies.

10 (3) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for  
11 their services, but shall be eligible to receive a subsistence  
12 allowance and travel expenses pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

13 (4) The members of the commission shall elect a chair from among  
14 their number. The commission shall set a schedule of salaries by an  
15 affirmative vote of not less than nine members of the commission.

16 (5) The commission shall file its initial schedule of salaries for  
17 the elected officials with the secretary of state no later than the  
18 first Monday in June, 1987, and shall file a schedule biennially  
19 thereafter. Each such schedule shall be filed in legislative bill  
20 form, shall be assigned a chapter number and published with the session  
21 laws of the legislature, and shall be codified by the statute law  
22 committee. The signature of the chair of the commission shall be  
23 affixed to each schedule submitted to the secretary of state. The  
24 chair shall certify that the schedule has been adopted in accordance  
25 with the provisions of state law and with the rules, if any, of the  
26 commission. Such schedules shall become effective (~~((ninety days))~~) on  
27 the first day after the (~~((filing thereof))~~) next regular session, except  
28 as provided in Article XXVIII, section 1 of the state Constitution.  
29 State laws regarding referendum petitions shall apply to such schedules  
30 to the extent consistent with Article XXVIII, section 1 of the state  
31 Constitution.

32 (6) Before the filing of any salary schedule, the commission shall  
33 first develop a proposed salary schedule and then hold no fewer than  
34 four regular meetings as defined by chapter 42.30 RCW to take public  
35 testimony on the proposed schedule within the four months immediately  
36 preceding the filing. At the last public hearing that is held as a  
37 regular meeting on the proposed schedule, the commission shall adopt

1 the salary schedule as originally proposed or as amended at that  
2 meeting that will be filed with the secretary of state.

3 (7) All meetings, actions, hearings, and business of the commission  
4 shall be subject in full to the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30  
5 RCW.

6 (8) Salaries of the officials referred to in subsection (1) of this  
7 section that are in effect on January 12, 1987, shall continue until  
8 modified by the commission under this section.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2004, if  
10 the proposed amendment to Article XXVIII, section 1 of the state  
11 Constitution implementing salary changes by the citizens' commission on  
12 salaries for elected officials is validly submitted to and is approved  
13 and ratified by the voters at the next general election. If the  
14 proposed amendment is not approved and ratified, this act is void in  
15 its entirety.

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