
SENATE BILL 5624

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Morton and McCaslin

Read first time 02/03/2003. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to salaries of district court judges; amending RCW
2 3.58.010, 3.58.020, and 43.03.310; and providing a contingent effective
3 date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 3.58.010 and 1986 c 155 s 7 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Except in counties with a population of less than twenty-five
8 thousand, the annual salary of each full-time district court judge
9 shall be established by the Washington citizen's commission on salaries
10 for elected officials. In counties with a population of less than
11 twenty-five thousand, the annual salary of each full-time district
12 court judge shall be established by the county legislative authority.

13 A member of the legislature whose term of office is partly coextensive
14 with or extends beyond the present term of office of any of the
15 officials whose salary is increased by virtue of the provisions of RCW
16 43.03.010, 2.04.092, 2.06.062, 2.08.092, and 3.58.010 shall be eligible
17 to be appointed or elected to any of the offices the salary of which is
18 increased hereby but he or she shall not be entitled to receive such
19 increased salary until after the expiration of his or her present term

1 of office and his or her subsequent election or reelection to the
2 office to which he or she was appointed or elected respectively during
3 his or her term of office as legislator.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 3.58.020 and 1991 c 338 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Except in counties with a population of less than twenty-five
7 thousand, the annual salaries of part-time district court judges shall
8 be set by the citizens' commission on salaries. In counties with a
9 population of less than twenty-five thousand, the annual salaries of
10 part-time district court judges shall be set by the county legislative
11 authority.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.03.310 and 1998 c 164 s 1 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) The citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials
15 shall study the relationship of salaries to the duties of members of
16 the legislature, all elected officials of the executive branch of state
17 government, and all judges of the supreme court, court of appeals, and
18 superior courts, and judges of district courts in counties having a
19 population of twenty-five thousand or more persons, and shall fix the
20 salary for each respective position.

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

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

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

31 (5) The commission shall file its initial schedule of salaries for
32 the elected officials with the secretary of state no later than the
33 first Monday in June, 1987, and shall file a schedule biennially
34 thereafter. Each such schedule shall be filed in legislative bill
35 form, shall be assigned a chapter number and published with the session
36 laws of the legislature, and shall be codified by the statute law

1 committee. The signature of the chair of the commission shall be
2 affixed to each schedule submitted to the secretary of state. The
3 chair shall certify that the schedule has been adopted in accordance
4 with the provisions of state law and with the rules, if any, of the
5 commission. Such schedules shall become effective ninety days after
6 the filing thereof, except as provided in Article XXVIII, section 1 of
7 the state Constitution. State laws regarding referendum petitions
8 shall apply to such schedules to the extent consistent with Article
9 XXVIII, section 1 of the state Constitution.

10 (6) Before the filing of any salary schedule, the commission shall
11 first develop a proposed salary schedule and then hold no fewer than
12 four regular meetings as defined by chapter 42.30 RCW to take public
13 testimony on the proposed schedule within the four months immediately
14 preceding the filing. At the last public hearing that is held as a
15 regular meeting on the proposed schedule, the commission shall adopt
16 the salary schedule as originally proposed or as amended at that
17 meeting that will be filed with the secretary of state.

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

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

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2004, if
25 the proposed amendment to Article XXVIII, section 1 of the state
26 Constitution on compensation of state officers is validly submitted to
27 and is approved and ratified by the voters at the next general
28 election. If the proposed amendment is not approved and ratified, this
29 act is void in its entirety.

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