

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 282

SESSION: 2014 Regular Session

TOPIC: Legislative Salary Council

Analyst: Mark Shepard

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Overview

In 2013, the legislature proposed a constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot at the 2016 general election (Laws 2013, chapter 124). That constitutional amendment would create a citizens council to set salaries for legislators. This bill:

- Amends the proposed constitutional amendment by stating that none of the members of the citizens council may be the spouse of a current legislator, a current legislative employee, a current or former judge, a current or former constitutional officer, or a current executive or judicial employee. (The language proposed in 2013 forbids current or former legislators or lobbyist from serving on the council)
- Changes the ballot question to refer to “state lawmakers”
- Adds a title for the constitutional ballot question: “Remove Lawmakers’ Power to Set Their Own Pay”
- Contains statutory language implementing the Legislative Salary Council created in the proposed constitutional amendment

Section

- 1** **Legislative Salary Council.** Creates a legislative salary council that would take effect if the voters approve the proposed constitutional amendment at the 2016 general election. The membership of the council is as specified in the proposed constitutional amendment.

Provides for initial appointments, and for staggering of initial four-year terms. Provides that new members will be appointed following each redistricting. Provides removal during a

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term for cause (or due to redistricting). Provides for members to receive per diem and expense reimbursement. Requires the Legislative Coordinating Commission to provide administrative and support services.

As provided by the proposed constitutional language, requires that by March 31 of each odd-numbered year, the council must prescribe salaries for legislators to take effect July 1 of that year. Requires that in setting salaries the council must take into account any other legislative compensation and the most recent budget forecast. Requires the report prescribing salaries to describe the council's rationale.

Forbids any member of the council from having any communication with a member of the legislature after the first council meeting is convened and before legislator salaries are prescribed.

2 **Constitutional amendment proposed.** Amends the text of the proposed constitutional amendment by adding language stating that none of the members of the council may be the spouse of a current legislator, a current employee of the legislature, a current or former judge, a current or former constitutional officer, or a current executive or judicial employee. Changes the text of the proposed constitutional language by adding language repealing any salary increase for legislators authorized by the legislature after January 5, 2015.

3 **Schedule and question; title.** Amends the ballot question proposed in 2013 by stating that the proposal relates to "state lawmakers".

Adds a title for the proposed amendment: "Remove Lawmakers' Power to Set Their Own Pay."