

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Compensation Council

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### Overview

Under current law a Compensation Council is created each odd-numbered year to assist the legislature in establishing compensation for constitutional officers, legislators, judges and agency heads. This bill removes legislative compensation from the jurisdiction of the Compensation Council, and removes legislators from membership on the council.

Under the Minnesota Constitution, compensation for legislators and constitutional officers must be prescribed by law, and compensation for judges must be prescribed by the legislature. The role of the Compensation Council is advisory.

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 new citizens council to set legislative salaries. This bill is not dependent on the outcome of the proposed constitutional amendment. That is, recommendations regarding legislative compensation would be removed from the jurisdiction of the Compensation Council even if the voters do not approve the constitutional amendment in 2016. The bill is effective immediately, so it would apply to the Compensation Council that will be created in 2015.

### Section

- 1** **Creation.** Strikes legislators from the membership of the Compensation Council that is created each odd-numbered year to assist the legislature in establishing compensation of constitutional officers, legislators, judges, and agency heads.

**Section**

- 2        **Submission of recommendations.** Strikes duty of the Compensation Council to recommend salaries for legislators.
  
- 3        **Criteria.** Strikes references to legislative compensation in the section of current law stating criteria that the Compensation Council must consider in making its recommendations.