

## FINAL REPORT

### COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION, EXPENSES, AND SALARIES OF ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

May 1991

#### AUTHORIZATION AND APPOINTMENT

The Commission on Compensation, Expenses, and Salaries of Elected State Officials was established by the General Assembly in 1972. It consists of fifteen members, five appointed by the Governor, five appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and five appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Chapter 2A of the Code of Iowa (1991) charges the Commission with a review of the compensation and expenses paid to members of the General Assembly and salaries paid to other elective state officials. The Commission is directed to review compensation, expenses, and salaries paid for comparable positions in other states, the federal government, and private enterprise and to recommend compensation and expense levels for members of the General Assembly and salary levels for elective executive officials. The Commission makes recommendations in odd-numbered years for the beginning of each General Assembly biennium.

The members of the Commission are:

Mr. David Fisher, Chairperson  
Mr. Mark L. Brandsgard  
Mr. Paul Copenhaver  
Mr. Duane V. Cottingham  
Mr. Joe Dalhoff  
Mr. Robert Dilley  
Ms. Cecilia Fineran  
Ms. Mary Hodges  
Ms. Charlotte Hubbell  
Ms. Margo Keller  
Mr. Carl Nielsen  
Ms. Becky Reynolds-Knight  
Ms. Dawn Sly-Williams  
Ms. Julie Stone  
Mr. Mike Tramontina

### COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

The Commission met on December 7, 1990, and January 4, 1991. Mr. David Fisher was elected chairperson.

The Commission adopted the following principles that have guided Commissions in past years:

1. Commission deliberations should not be influenced by political considerations.
2. Commission recommendations should be based upon the offices themselves and not on the performances of present officeholders.
3. Recommendations should be made without regard to whether the Commission believes the General Assembly will accept or reject the recommendations.

The Commission solicited information from state officials regarding a description of their duties and workload and their own salary recommendations. The Commission received several written responses, and Mr. Dale Cochran, Secretary of Agriculture, made a presentation before the Commission. Members also requested and reviewed information on the following:

1. Current salaries and fringe benefits of members of the General Assembly and of elected state officials.
2. Salaries of these officials in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, and Missouri.
3. The previous recommendations of the Commission.
4. The Consumer Price Index for the last two years.
5. The geographic size of state legislative districts.

It was noted that, under current Iowa law, a standing General Assembly cannot vote itself a pay raise.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

(See Charts on Pages 4, 5, and 6)

Based upon the Commission's discussion and research, the Commission on Compensation, Salaries, and Expenses for Elected State Officials makes the following recommendations:

1. That a salary increase not be provided for the Lieutenant Governor for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1991.
2. That the base salaries for elective executive officials, excluding the Lieutenant Governor, be increased by the percentage increase in salary, sick leave, and

vacation benefits negotiated by the state's largest employee union for the same fiscal year, not to exceed four percent.

3. That the base salary for members of the 75th General Assembly be increased by the same percent as the salaries for elective executive officials.
4. That the legislative session expense amounts effective January 14, 1991, remain unchanged for the 75th General Assembly.
5. That legislative interim payments to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader of the 75th General Assembly be raised to \$60 per day and that it be raised to \$55 per day for the other leaders and the members of the 75th General Assembly.
6. That legislators' home district expenses be reimbursed based upon a three-tiered schedule of large, medium, and small districts with Senate districts reimbursed at a rate twice that of the House districts.

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**COMPENSATION COMMISSION'S 1991 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
SALARIES OF STATE OFFICIALS**

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

	SALARIES AS OF 7-1-90	BASE SALARIES USED BY COMMISSION	RECOMMENDED 7-1-91	FOR 7-1-92 <sup>2</sup>
GOVERNOR	\$76,700	\$80,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$83,200	\$86,500
ATTORNEY GENERAL	\$73,600	\$73,600	\$75,844	\$78,200
AUDITOR OF STATE	\$60,000	\$66,200 <sup>1</sup>	\$68,848	\$71,600
SECRETARY OF STATE	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$62,400	\$64,900
TREASURER OF STATE	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$62,400	\$64,900
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$62,400	\$64,900

<sup>1</sup>These base salaries were used in applying the 4 percent increase because they represent the previous Commission's recommendations on what the salaries should be as of 7-1-90.

<sup>2</sup>Figures rounded to nearest \$100. Prior to rounding figures, in order, were \$86,528; \$78,178; \$71,602; \$64,896; \$64,896; \$64,896.

NOTE: 4 percent was the figure used for increasing the salaries of the elective executive and legislative officials because the Commission's recommendation was that these salaries be increased by the same increase received by the members of the largest state employees union (AFSCME), but not to exceed 4 percent, for salaries, sick leave, and vacation benefits. AFSCME members were awarded under arbitration with a 3 percent pay increase as of 7-1-91, a 2 percent pay increase as of 1-1-92, and a 4 percent pay increase as of 7-1-92, which does not include other benefits which may have been awarded.

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

	SALARIES AS OF JANUARY 1991	RECOMMENDED FOR 75TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY JANUARY 1993
SPEAKER AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER	\$27,900	NSR
OTHER LEADERS (BOTH HOUSES)	\$27,900	NSR
ASSISTANT LEADERS (BOTH HOUSES)	\$18,100*	NSR
MEMBERS	\$18,100	\$19,577

\*Speaker Pro Tem of the House and President Pro Tem of the Senate - \$19,100  
NSR - No specific recommendation made

**SESSION EXPENSES\***

SPEAKER AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER	\$50/day	\$50/day
LEADERS	\$50/day	\$50/day
MEMBERS	\$50/day	\$50/day
MEMBERS - POLK COUNTY	\$35/day	\$35/day

\* Seven days/week for 110 days in odd-numbered years and 100 days in even-numbered years

**INTERIM PAYMENTS\*\***

SPEAKER AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER	\$50/day	\$60/day
LEADERS	\$50/day	\$55/day
MEMBERS	\$50/day	\$55/day

\*\*Plus actual expenses

**HOME DISTRICT EXPENSES\*\*\***

	EXPENSES AS OF JANUARY 1991	RECOMMENDED FOR 75TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY JANUARY 1993
<b>HOUSE MEMBERS</b>		
Large District	\$75/month	\$150/month
Medium District	\$75/month	\$100/month
Small District	\$75/month	\$ 75/month
<b>SENATE MEMBERS</b>		
Large District	\$75/month	\$300/month
Medium District	\$75/month	\$200/month
Small District	\$75/month	\$150/month

\*\*\*All members receive \$75 per month for legislative district constituency, postage, travel, telephone costs, and other expenses

TABCOMP/sc/dg