

FINAL REPORT

**COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION,
EXPENSES, AND SALARIES FOR ELECTED
STATE OFFICIALS**

**Presented to the Legislative Council
and the Iowa General Assembly
February 1993**

Prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau

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January 1993

AUTHORIZATION AND APPOINTMENT

The Commission on Compensation, Expenses, and Salaries for Elected State Officials was established by the General Assembly in 1972. Chapter 2A of the Code of Iowa (1993) specifies that the Commission be composed of 15 members, with the Governor, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appointing five members. The Commission is charged with reviewing 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 any other relevant factors. Based on that information, the Commission is further charged with making recommendations to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly on the compensation and expense levels for members of the General Assembly and the salary levels for elective executive branch officials. The Commission makes recommendations in odd-numbered years for the beginning of each General Assembly biennium.

The members of the Commission:

- Mr. David Fisher, Chairperson, Governor's Appointee, term expires 6/30/93.
- Mr. Michael Blouin, Senate Appointee, term expires 6/30/96.
- Mr. Mark L. Brandsgard, House Appointee, term expires 6/30/93.
- Mr. Duane V. Cottingham, Governor's Appointee, term expires 6/30/97.
- Mr. Robert Dilley, Governor's Appointee, term expires 6/30/96.
- Ms. Cecilia Fineran, Senate Appointee, term expires 6/30/95.
- Mr. Thom Hart, House Appointee, term expires 6/30/96.
- Ms. Mary Hodges, Governor's Appointee, term expires 6/30/95.
- Ms. Margo Keller, Governor's Appointee, term expires 6/30/94.
- Mr. Kasey Kincaid, Senate Appointee, term expires 6/30/94.
- Mr. Carl Nielsen, House Appointee, term expires 6/30/94.
- Ms. Doris Peick, House Appointee, term expires 6/30/97.
- Ms. Rebecca Reynolds-Knight, Senate Appointee, term expires 6/30/93.
- Ms. Dawn Sly-Williams, House Appointee, term expires 6/30/95.
- Ms. Peggy Whitworth, Senate Appointee, term expires 6/30/97.

COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

The Commission met on January 6, 1993, and January 15, 1993. Mr. David Fisher was reelected chairperson.

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

1. Commission deliberations should not be influenced by political considerations.
2. The 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.

PRESENTATIONS AND INFORMATION RECEIVED

The Commission invited state officials to present their comments before the Commission regarding the compensation and benefits received for their positions, as well as their opinions about the compensation and benefits paid to other elected positions within their branch of government. The Commission received written comments from Representative Harold Van Maanen, in his position at that time as House Minority Leader; Mr. Dale M. Cochran, Secretary of Agriculture; and Mr. Richard D. Johnson, Auditor of State. Mr. Warren Jenkins, Deputy Auditor of State, made a presentation before the Commission.

Before the first meeting, the members received the following information to facilitate their work:

1. The minutes and final report from the last year the Commission met, 1991.
2. The Accounting and Finance Salaries portion of the Robert Half Accountemps Salary Guide 1992.
3. The 1992 Annual Salaries for Selected Officials table -- focusing on Iowa and its surrounding states. The information was drawn from the Book of the States, 1992-93 edition, published by The Council of State Governments.
4. A listing of salaries of elected officials and their top three aides.

5. The consumer price index (C.P.I.) for all urban consumers in Kansas City and St. Louis (compared to the U.S. city average). The attachment also included the C.P.I. for medical care for all urban consumers in Kansas City and St. Louis.
6. A listing of salaries of the three state university presidents.
7. A listing of salaries of the Des Moines City Manager, Finance Director, and the Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools.
8. A listing of state employee fringe benefits.
9. A comparison of the Commission's recommendations versus actual legislative action.
10. The Basic Legislative Compensation table.
11. The Iowa Elected Officials Annual Salaries table.
12. House of Representative and Senate district size by area (square mile) charts.

Members also requested and reviewed the following:

1. Information from Mr. Warren Jenkins, Deputy Auditor of State, regarding the salaries of state auditors in surrounding states.
2. A table designed by Mr. Mark Brandsgard comparing salaries of elected state officials since 1982.
3. A description of the duties of the Lieutenant Governor.
4. A description of the duties and responsibilities of the deputy directors of elected state officials and their relationships to the officials provided by the offices of Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, Auditor of State, Secretary of Agriculture, and Attorney General.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission approved the following recommendations¹ at its January 15, 1993, meeting:

1. Increase the Governor's salary from the current level of \$76,700 to \$86,500 effective July 1, 1993, and to \$90,000 effective July 1, 1994.
2. Effective July 1, 1993, decrease the Lieutenant Governor's salary from the current level of \$60,000 down to \$40,000.

¹ Recommendations are also summarized in the attached tables.

3. Increase the Attorney General's salary from the current level of \$73,600 to \$78,000 effective July 1, 1993, and to \$85,000 effective July 1, 1994.
4. Increase the Auditor of State's salary from the current level of \$60,000 to \$66,900 effective July 1, 1993, and to \$70,000 effective July 1, 1994.
5. Increase the Secretary of Agriculture's salary from the current level of \$60,000 to \$66,900 effective July 1, 1993, and to \$70,000 effective July 1, 1994.
6. Increase the Secretary of State's salary from the current level of \$60,000 to \$64,900 effective July 1, 1993, and to \$68,000 effective July 1, 1994.
7. Increase the Treasurer of State's salary from the current level of \$60,000 to \$64,900 effective July 1, 1993, and to \$68,000 effective July 1, 1994.
8. Effective January 1, 1995, increase salaries for members of the General Assembly from the current salary level of \$18,100 to \$22,500.
9. Effective January 1, 1995, increase the salaries of the Speaker Pro Tem (House) and the President Pro Tem (Senate) from the current level of \$19,100 to \$24,500.
10. Effective January 1, 1995, increase the salaries of the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the House Majority and Minority Leaders from the current level of \$27,900 to \$32,000.
11. Effective January 1, 1995, for expenses such as legislative district constituency, postage, travel, and telephone costs, allow Representatives in districts of less than 100 square miles the current figure of \$75 per month. Allow Representatives in districts of 100 or more miles \$125 per month.
12. Effective January 1, 1995, for expenses such as legislative district constituency, postage, travel, and telephone costs, allow Senators in districts of less than 200 square miles the current figure of \$75 per month. Allow Senators in districts of 200 or more miles \$125 per month.
13. Effective January 1, 1993, set per diem at \$50 for all members of the General Assembly, effectively eliminating the distinction currently made between Polk County legislators who receive \$35 per diem payments, while all other legislators receive \$50 per diem.
14. Provide a \$20 per diem to legislators for childcare expenses incurred during the legislative session, to be paid in the same manner that other per diems are paid.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

	Salaries as of July 1, 1992	Recommended for July 1, 1993	Recommended for July 1, 1994
Governor	\$76,700	\$86,500	\$90,000
Lieutenant Governor	\$60,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Attorney General	\$73,600	\$78,000	\$85,000
Auditor of State	\$60,000	\$66,900	\$70,000
Secretary of Agriculture	\$60,000	\$66,900	\$70,000
Secretary of State	\$60,000	\$64,900	\$68,000
Treasurer of State	\$60,000	\$64,900	\$68,000

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

	Salaries as of January 1, 1993	Recommended for the 76th General Assembly January 1, 1995
President of the Senate	\$27,900	\$32,000
Speaker of the House	\$27,900	\$32,000
Senate Majority and Minority Leaders	\$27,900	\$32,000
House Majority and Minority Leaders	\$27,900	\$32,000
President Pro Tem of the Senate	\$19,100	\$24,500
Speaker Pro Tem of the House	\$19,100	\$24,500
Other Members	\$18,100	\$22,500

LEGISLATIVE SESSION EXPENSES/INTERIM PAYMENTS

	SESSION EXPENSES*		INTERIM PAYMENTS**	
	As of January 1, 1993	Recommended for the 76th General Assembly January 1, 1995	As of January 1, 1993	Recommended for the 76th General Assembly January 1, 1995
President of the Senate	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
Speaker of the House	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
Senate Majority and Minority Leaders	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
House Majority and Minority Leaders	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
President Pro Tem of the Senate	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
Speaker Pro Tem of the House	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
Members	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day	\$50/day
Polk County Members	\$35/day	\$35/day	\$35/day	\$35/day
Childcare payment for all leaders and members with dependent children	N/A	\$20/day	N/A	N/A

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

**Plus actual expenses.

NOTE: As of January 1, 1993, members receive an allowance of \$75 per month for expenses such as legislative district constituency, postage, travel, and telephone costs. The Commission recommends the following change based upon district area:

	Representatives	Senators
in districts of less than 100 square miles	\$75	N/A
in districts of 100 or more square miles	\$125	N/A
in districts of less than 200 square miles	N/A	\$75
in districts of 200 or more square miles	N/A	\$125

N/A = Not Applicable
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