
HOUSE BILL 2179

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Upthegrove, Schual-Berke, Cody, Santos and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/12/2007. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the Washington citizens' commission
2 on salaries for elected officials to fix the salaries of port district
3 commissioners; and amending RCW 53.12.260, 43.03.300, and 43.03.310.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 53.12.260 and 1998 c 121 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Each commissioner of a port district shall receive seventy
8 dollars per day or portion thereof spent (a) in actual attendance at
9 official meetings of the port district commission, or (b) in
10 performance of other service in behalf of the district. The total per
11 diem compensation of a port commissioner shall not exceed six thousand
12 seven hundred twenty dollars in a year, or eight thousand four hundred
13 dollars in any year for a port district with gross operating income of
14 twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year.

15 (2) Port commissioners shall receive additional compensation as
16 follows: (a) Each commissioner of a port district with gross operating
17 revenues of twenty-five million dollars or more in the preceding
18 calendar year shall receive a salary of five hundred dollars per month;
19 and (b) each commissioner of a port district with gross operating

1 revenues of from one million dollars to less than twenty-five million
2 dollars in the preceding calendar year shall receive a salary of two
3 hundred dollars per month.

4 (3) In lieu of the compensation specified in this section, a port
5 commission may set compensation to be paid to commissioners. A port
6 commission may, at its option, authorize the Washington citizen's
7 commission on salaries for elected officials to fix the salaries paid
8 to commissioners.

9 (4) For any commissioner who has not elected to become a member of
10 public employees retirement system before May 1, 1975, the compensation
11 provided pursuant to this section shall not be considered salary for
12 purposes of the provisions of any retirement system created pursuant to
13 the general laws of this state nor shall attendance at such meetings or
14 other service on behalf of the district constitute service as defined
15 in RCW 41.40.010(9): PROVIDED, That in the case of a port district
16 when commissioners are receiving compensation and contributing to the
17 public employees retirement system, these benefits shall continue in
18 full force and effect notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 53.12.260
19 and 53.12.265.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.03.300 and 1986 c 155 s 1 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 The legislature hereby declares it to be the policy of this state
23 to base salaries of elected state officials and port district
24 commissioners on realistic standards in order that such officials may
25 be paid according to the duties of their offices and so that citizens
26 of the highest quality may be attracted to public service. It is the
27 purpose of RCW 43.03.300 through 43.03.310 to effectuate this policy by
28 creating a citizens' commission to establish proper salaries for such
29 officials, thus removing political considerations in fixing the
30 appropriateness of the amount of such salaries.

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

33 (1) The citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials
34 shall study the relationship of salaries to the duties of members of
35 the legislature, all elected officials of the executive branch of state
36 government, port district commissioners as authorized under RCW

1 53.12.260, and all judges of the supreme court, court of appeals,
2 superior courts, and district courts, and shall fix the salary for each
3 respective position.

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

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

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

14 (5) The commission shall file its initial schedule of salaries for
15 the elected officials with the secretary of state no later than the
16 first Monday in June, 1987, and shall file a schedule biennially
17 thereafter. Each such schedule shall be filed in legislative bill
18 form, shall be assigned a chapter number and published with the session
19 laws of the legislature, and shall be codified by the statute law
20 committee. The signature of the chair of the commission shall be
21 affixed to each schedule submitted to the secretary of state. The
22 chair shall certify that the schedule has been adopted in accordance
23 with the provisions of state law and with the rules, if any, of the
24 commission. Such schedules shall become effective ninety days after
25 the filing thereof, except as provided in Article XXVIII, section 1 of
26 the state Constitution. State laws regarding referendum petitions
27 shall apply to such schedules to the extent consistent with Article
28 XXVIII, section 1 of the state Constitution.

29 (6) Before the filing of any salary schedule, the commission shall
30 first develop a proposed salary schedule and then hold no fewer than
31 four regular meetings as defined by chapter 42.30 RCW to take public
32 testimony on the proposed schedule within the four months immediately
33 preceding the filing. At the last public hearing that is held as a
34 regular meeting on the proposed schedule, the commission shall adopt
35 the salary schedule as originally proposed or as amended at that
36 meeting that will be filed with the secretary of state.

37 (7) All meetings, actions, hearings, and business of the commission

1 shall be subject in full to the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30
2 RCW.

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

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