

1812-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Local Government & Housing  
(originally sponsored by Representatives Schindler, Ahern, Crouse,  
Sump, Benson, Cox, Wood, Gombosky and Schoesler)

Brief Description: Clarifying authority for counties to create  
independent salary commissions.

**HB 1812-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds and declares that:

(1) Article XXX, section 1 of the state Constitution permits  
midterm salary increases for municipal officers who do not fix  
their own compensation;

(2) The Washington citizens' commission on salaries for  
elected officials established pursuant to Article XXVIII, section  
1 of the state Constitution with voter approval has assured that  
the compensation for state and county elected officials will be  
fair and certain, while minimizing the dangers of midterm salary  
increases being used to influence those officers in the performance  
of their duties;

(3) The same public benefits of independent salary commissions  
should be extended to the setting of compensation of municipal  
elected officers; and

(4) This act is intended to clarify the intent of the  
legislature that existing state law authorizes:

(a) The establishment of independent salary commissions to set  
the salaries of city or town elected officials, county  
commissioners, and county councilmembers; and

(b) The authority of the voters of such cities, towns, and  
counties to review commission decisions to increase or decrease  
such salaries by means of referendum.