

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON SALARIES FOR ELECTIVE STATE OFFICERS - LEGISLATIVE PAY RECOMMENDATIONS

This memorandum provides information on the Arizona Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers, including:

- Current statutory and constitutional provisions relating to the Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers.
- The history of the commission's recommendations relating to legislative pay.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Article V, Section 12, of the Constitution of Arizona authorizes a Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers to make recommendations regarding the salaries of elected state officials, including legislators. The commission's recommendation relating to elected state officials other than legislators is submitted to the Governor, who then makes a recommendation to the legislature. If the Governor's recommendation is not rejected by the legislature, and if no conflicting law is enacted, the Governor's recommendation takes effect without legislative action. The commission's recommendation relating to legislators is automatically submitted to the state voters at the next regular general election. If approved by the voters, the commission's recommendation for legislative pay becomes effective at the beginning of the next regular legislative session.

The following statutory sections relate to the Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers:

- Section 41-1901 establishes the commission.
- Section 41-1902 provides that the commission consists of five members appointed from the private sector:

Two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be designated as chairman.

One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

One member appointed by the Speaker of the House.

One member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Members are appointed to serve biennially, until they have submitted their recommendation as required by Section 41-1903.

- Section 41-1903 provides that the commission shall biennially conduct a review of the rates of pay of elective state officers, justices and judges of courts of record, and clerks of the Superior Court to determine appropriate pay levels. The commission is required to submit to the Governor, no later than October 1, a recommendation and a report on the results of its review.
- Section 41-1904 - This section provides that, after having received the recommendation of the Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers, the Governor shall include in the next budget submitted to the legislature a recommendation relating to the rates of pay for elected state officials. If not rejected by the legislature within 90 days, the Governor's recommendation takes effect in January of the following year. The commission's recommendation relating to legislative pay takes effect at the beginning of the next legislative session if approved by the voters.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Since 1970, legislative pay recommendations of the Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers have been required to be submitted to the voters of Arizona for approval. Arizona legislators currently receive compensation of \$24,000 per year, based on passage of proposition No. 302 in the 1998 general election which increased legislative pay from \$15,000 to \$24,000, as recommended by the Commission on Salaries for Elective State Officers. Prior to passage of 1998 proposition No. 302, legislative pay had not been increased since 1980 when it was raised from \$6,000 to \$15,000. Since 1970, recommended pay increases have been rejected by the voters 11 times, in 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996. Legislative pay increases were approved by the voters in 1970, 1980, and 1998.