

LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

At the Legislative Compensation Commission meeting on May 5, 2004, Mr. Charles Axtman, Chairman, asked the Legislative Council staff to conduct a survey of members of the Legislative Management Committee regarding legislative compensation and reimbursement issues. The following is a summary of the legislative compensation and reimbursement issues the members of the Legislative Management Committee were asked to respond to and the responses of six members.

Legislative Compensation and Reimbursement Issues	Responses
<p>Compensation for regular, special, or organizational sessions - The current compensation for regular, special, or organizational sessions is \$125 per calendar day. The compensation was last increased in 2001 from \$111 to \$125 per day.</p> <p>Lodging expense reimbursement for regular, special, or organizational sessions - The current lodging expense reimbursement for regular, special, or organizational sessions is \$45 plus tax per calendar day up to \$650 per month. The maximum expense reimbursement allowed as last increased in 1985 from \$600 to \$650. The Legislative Compensation Commission, at its May 5, 2004, meeting, discussed increasing the maximum lodging expense reimbursement allowed during legislative sessions from \$650 to \$900 per month for motels and \$750 per month for private residences.</p> <p>Mileage expense reimbursement - The current mileage expense reimbursement for regular, special, or organizational sessions and interim meetings is 31 cents per mile. The rate was last increased in 2001 from 25 to 31 cents per mile. The Legislative Compensation Commission, at its May 5, 2004, meeting, discussed increasing the rate from 31 cents to 37.5 cents per mile.</p>	<p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The compensation is not sufficient; however, the compensation should not be increased due to the status of the state's budget.</p> <p>The compensation should be increased by \$10 per day from \$125 to \$135 per day.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The compensation should follow inflation or state employee salary increases.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The lodging expense reimbursement is adequate.</p> <p>The maximum lodging expense reimbursement allowed during legislative sessions should be increased to \$900 per month.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>An increase for the maximum lodging expense reimbursement allowed during legislative sessions to \$750 or \$800 per month for motels would be adequate.</p> <p>The proposed lodging expense reimbursement increase to \$900 per month for motels is too great. The guarantee of a room filled for the month is a benefit for a motel, and there are days when motels are not filled. An increase to \$750 or \$800 per month for motels would be adequate.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>An increase to 37.5 cents per mile for mileage expense reimbursement is appropriate.</p> <p>The mileage expense reimbursement should be raised to 37.5 cents per mile.</p> <p>The committee should consider increasing the mileage expense reimbursement to the standard mileage rate set by the Internal Revenue Service.</p> <p>The mileage expense reimbursement should be increased to 37.5 cents per mile.</p> <p>An increase to 37.5 cents per mile is warranted due to increased fuel costs.</p>

Legislative Compensation and Reimbursement Issues	Responses
<p>Compensation during term of office - The current compensation paid to legislators during their term of office is \$250 per month. The compensation was last increased in 1985 from \$180 to \$250 per month.</p>	<p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The commission should consider an increase of \$50 from \$250 per month to \$300 per month.</p> <p>An increase of \$100 per month, from \$250 to \$350 per month, would be appropriate.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The current compensation of \$250 per month is acceptable; however, the commission may consider a percentage increase for inflation.</p> <p>An increase of \$50 per month, from \$250 to \$300 per month, would be appropriate.</p>
<p>Compensation for interim meetings - The current compensation for attendance at meetings of the Legislative Council and its committees is \$100 per day. The compensation was last increased in 2001 from \$75 to \$100 per day.</p>	<p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The compensation for interim meetings should be the same as compensation for regular, special, or organizational sessions, \$125 per day.</p> <p>The compensation for interim meetings should be increased to \$125 per day.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p> <p>The current compensation for interim meetings is acceptable; however, the commission may consider a percentage increase for inflation.</p> <p>No suggested changes.</p>