Prepared by the North Dakota Legislative Council
staff for the Legislative Compensation Commission
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LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION INCREASES COMPARED TO INFLATION AND STATE EMPLOYEE SALARY INCREASES - 1981 THROUGH 2006

This memorandum compares actual legislative compensation rates and legislative compensation rates adjusted for inflation and state employee salary increases for the period 1981 through 2006.

LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION RATES

North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 54-03-20 provides that each member of the Legislative Assembly is entitled to receive compensation of $125 per calendar day during each regular, special, or organizational session. In addition, each legislator is entitled to receive monthly compensation of $350 during each legislator's term of office. Section 54-35-10 provides that legislators are also entitled to receive compensation of $100 per day for attending interim meetings of the Legislative Council and its committees.

CHANGES IN LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION SINCE 1981

Year of Change	Compensation for Each Calendar Day During Session	Expense Reimbursement During Session		Expense Reimbursement or Compensation for Each Month During Term of Office	Compensation for Each Day Attending Interim Meetings
		For Each Day During Session	For Each Month During Session		
1981	$5[1]	$85[1]		$180	$62.50
1983	$40[2]	$50[2]		$180	$62.50
1985	$90[3]		$600[3]	$180[3]	$62.50
1997	$111		$650	$250[4]	$62.50
1999	$111		$650	$250	$75.00
2001	$125		$650	$250	$100.00
2005	$125		$900[5]	$350[5]	$100.00

[1]Legislative session compensation was constitutionally limited to $5 per calendar day, and the level of expense reimbursement during legislative sessions was set by statute at $85 per calendar day for a total of $90 per day.

[2]The constitutional provision limiting legislative compensation was repealed on June 8, 1982, by voter approval of measure No. 4, which created Section 26 of Article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota, and provides that:

> The legislative, executive, and judicial branches are coequal branches of government. Elected members and officials of each branch shall receive as compensation for their services only such amounts as may be specifically set by law. Payment for necessary expenses shall not exceed those allowed for other state employees.

After the adoption of the 1982 constitutional amendment, the subsequent Legislative Assembly (1983) amended NDCC Section 54-03-20 to set the levels of legislative session compensation and expense reimbursement at $40 per day and $50 per day, respectively. As an exception to the compensation and expense reimbursement rates provided to other legislators, legislators from Bismarck received $90 per day as compensation and no expense reimbursement. Consequently, the total of legislative session expense reimbursement and compensation for all legislators remained unchanged at $90 per day.

[3]The 1995 Legislative Assembly amended NDCC Section 54-03-20 to provide that legislators receive compensation of $90 per calendar day during the legislative session plus reimbursement for lodging up to $600 per month. Section 54-03-20 was also amended to provide that the $180 per month payment to legislators during their terms of office was compensation rather than reimbursement for expenses.

[4]The 1997 Legislative Assembly amended NDCC Section 54-03-20 to provide that compensation may be paid monthly, rather than every six months, at the option of each legislator.

[5]The 2005 Legislative Assembly increased legislators' monthly compensation from $250 to $350 per month, effective July 1, 2005, and increased the maximum lodging expense reimbursement allowed during legislative sessions from $650 to $900 per month, effective January 1, 2005.

The schedule attached as an appendix provides a comparison of actual legislative compensation rates and legislative compensation rates adjusted for inflation and state employee salary increases for the period 1981 through 2006.

ATTACH:1