

May 25, 2010

H 1987. CITIZENS RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE PAY. Filed 5/25/10. *TO ESTABLISH THE CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION.*

Amends GS Chapter 120 by adding a new Article 33, the provisions of which create and govern the North Carolina Citizens' Commission on Legislative Compensation. Enacts GS 120-292 to provide that the commission members shall be comprised of one member of each congressional district selected by a lottery system, and that the remaining members be appointed as follows: two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one by the House Minority Leader, two by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one by the Senate Minority Leader. Specifies that certain appointees must have particular expertise in valuation or compensation. A portion of the membership serve two-year terms and the remainder shall serve four-year terms, all beginning September 1, 2010, and the Commission shall appoint its chair annually.

Commission appointments are limited to two terms, and members are subject to removal by the Governor for causes related to malfeasance or inability to perform. Certain unexcused absences constitute relinquishment of membership. Officers and employees of state or local government, registered lobbyists, and immediate family members thereof are ineligible for membership.

GS 120-93 provides that members shall receive compensation and expense allowances in accordance with GS 138-5. The commission may appoint consultants and hire employees in accordance with GS 120-32.02, and it shall receive professional staff assistance through the Legislative Services Commission.

GS 120-94 requires the commission to study the compensation of General Assembly members and officers, and every two years to develop a compensation schedule for those members and officers including salary, mileage and travel allowance, expense allowance, and per diem (with certain limitations set by IRS and other federal allowance rates). "Officers of the General Assembly" does not include the Lieutenant Governor, Principal Clerks, Sergeants-at-Arms, or Reading Clerks. No fewer than four public hearings must precede adoption of a compensation schedule, and the compensation schedule must be adopted at a public hearing. The salary schedule must be reported to the General Assembly no later than March 1 of each even-numbered year.

GS 120-95 provides that current compensation rates remain in effect until changed under this Article. GS 120-96 states that a salary schedule adopted by the Commission is not effective unless approved by the General Assembly and that, once approved, becomes effective at the next regular session.

Intro. by Heagarty.

GS 120