

February 24, 2009

S 292. CITIZENS COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION. Filed 2/24/09. *TO ESTABLISH THE CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION FOR ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS.*

Amends GS Chapter 120 by adding new Article 33, establishing a Citizen's Commission charged with adopting salary schedules for elected state officials in all three branches of state government. Provides for membership of the Commission to be composed of one registered voter from each congressional district to be chosen by lot, in addition to twelve members (three each) selected by the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Sets out additional provisions about member selection and administrative matters. Requires the Commission to (1) study the relationship of compensation to the duties of elected state officers in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government (2) examine the compensation paid to other similar officials, both in and out of North Carolina and (3) consider any other information deemed appropriate. For the legislative branch only, requires the Commission to include mileage and travel allowance, expense allowance, and per diem, in addition to salary, and sets the maximum for mileage and travel (business standard mileage rate set by IRS) and per diem (allowance for federal employees traveling to Raleigh). Requires the Commission to conduct a minimum of four public hearings on the proposed compensation schedule for each branch. Requires the Commission to submit salary schedules to the General Assembly as soon as feasible, either during or prior to the reconvening in 2010 of the 2009 Session, and by March 1 every two years thereafter. Specifies that current compensation rates for elected officials will remain in effect until Commission recommendations are approved by the General Assembly. If approved, changes will become effective for the legislative branch at the beginning of the next regular session, and will become effective for the judicial and executive branch on July 1 of the year adopted by the Commission. Specifies that compensation of officials elected under Articles III and IV of the North Carolina Constitution will not be diminished during those officials' terms of office.

Intro. by Clodfelter.

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