



Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

November 13, 2015

Commission Members:
Thomas McGrath, Chair
Kathy Hosford
Julee Duhrsen

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

November 13, 2015

Introduction

The Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission is directed by law to “review the salaries, benefits, and allowances of members of the legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and each principal executive department head and prepare a report on its findings at least once every two years, but not more frequently than every year.” [AS 39.23.540(a)] The commission is to prepare preliminary recommendations by November 15, and, after soliciting public comment, submit final recommendations to the governor and legislature by the tenth day of the next legislative session.

On January 10, 2009, the commission recommended salary adjustments for legislators and department heads and on January 26, 2011, the commission recommended salary adjustments for the governor and lieutenant governor. These salary increases were not rejected by the legislature, and they became law according to AS 39.23.540(d). The commission recommended salary adjustments for executive salaries in 2014; however, those recommendations were rejected by the legislature.

On October 27, 2015 and November 6, 2015 the commission met in Anchorage to consider recommendations for 2016. With regard to legislative salaries, the commission decided not to make any recommendations. With regard to executive salaries, the commission decided to make a recommendation that is described below. The commission will solicit public comment on these findings and recommendations before making a final submission to the governor and legislature by the tenth day of the legislative session beginning in January 2016.

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

The commission proposes that the salary of a deputy commissioner who accepts the office of department head with the same department with no break in service and is paid a salary higher than the salary authorized for the department head, shall retain his or her current salary while holding the position of department head.

Discussion

Today 10 of 23 deputy commissioners are receiving salaries higher than the department head. To ensure salary does not deter a deputy commissioner from accepting the office of department head, the commission is proposing that the salary of a deputy commissioner who assumes the office of department head with the same department, with no break in service, shall retain his or her current salary while holding the position if his or her current salary exceeds the authorized salary for the department head.

This report is available on the commission's website www.doa.alaska.gov/dop/socc. Comments may be sent to the commission by email from this website. A Public Hearing is scheduled for December 8, 2015 at 1 p.m. in the Atwood Building, 550 w. 7th, 19th Floor, Suite 1970, Anchorage, Alaska. The commission welcomes public input on these preliminary findings and recommendations.