



Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

November 15, 2019

Commission Members:
Scott Cunningham, Chair
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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. Finally, on December 15, 2016, the commission recommended 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. This recommendation was not rejected by the legislature and was subsequently became law.

On November 5, 2019, the commission met in Anchorage to consider recommendations for 2020. With regards to the Governors, Lieutenant Governor, executive salaries, and legislative salaries, the commission decided to not make any recommendations. 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 2020.

Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

The commission proposes that the salaries not increase at this time but that extensive work be completed in the following year with regards to the salaries of legislators and commissioners.

Discussion

The salaries for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor appear to be appropriate but the commissioners’ salaries seem low which could be detrimental to attracting talent. Additionally, there is still an issue with legislators’ salaries and per diem but there is not enough time before session starts to fully address the issues and determine an appropriate recommendation. The

commission would like to spend the next year in work sessions as well as seek input from the public as to the appropriate pay and per diem.

This report is available on the commission's website www.doa.alaska.gov/dop/socc. Comments may be sent to the commission by email to kate.sheehan@alaska.gov. A Public Hearing is scheduled for December 6, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. in the Atwood Building, 550 w. 7th, 19th Floor, Suite 106, Anchorage, Alaska. The commission welcomes public input on these preliminary findings and recommendations.