



## **Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission**

### **Findings and Recommendations**

**January 17, 2018**

Commission Members:  
Glenn Clary, Chair  
Duane Bannock  
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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 subsequently became law.

On October 25, 2017 and December 5, 2017, the commission met in Anchorage to consider recommendations for 2018. The commission held a final telephonic meeting on January 9, 2018. With regards to the Governor’s, Lieutenant Governor, executive salaries and legislative salaries, the commission decided to not make any recommendations. With regards to legislative per diem, the commission decided to make a recommendation that is described below. A report was issued on November 14, 2017 and an amended report was issued on December 21, 2017. At the close of the public hearing on January 9, 2018, the commission convened a meeting and adopted the following findings and recommendations.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

The commission recommends that the legislature continue to pay the federal per diem rates; however, per diem cannot be taken when a legislator is within 50 miles of his/her primary residence.

### **Discussion**

The commission decided to recommend that per diem continue to be paid based on the federal rate; however, legislators would not be eligible for per diem if the session was being held within

50 miles of their primary residence. Considerations that went into this recommendation include the desire that legislators not receive per diem when staying in their own homes and maintaining consistency with the rules that apply to executive branch employees. It was agreed that per diem is paid when traveling away from one's home and it is appropriate to pay in that manner for the legislature. This would include regular and special sessions.

This report as well as previous reports of the commission, including the preliminary report of November 14, 2017 and the amended preliminary report of December 21, 2017 are available on the commission's website [www.doa.alaska.gov/dop/socc](http://www.doa.alaska.gov/dop/socc).