
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5406 (File 549, as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF STATE REVENUE POLICIES.

SUMMARY

This bill increases annual salaries for legislators; the governor and lieutenant governor; and constitutional officers (i.e., the secretary of the state, state treasurer, state comptroller, and attorney general). It also establishes mechanisms by which these salaries may increase in the future.

Beginning with the next legislative term (i.e., January 4, 2023), the bill (1) increases the base legislator salary and the salaries for specified leadership positions and (2) requires that these amounts be adjusted for inflation in each subsequent term.

For the governor, lieutenant governor, and constitutional officers, the bill makes the salaries for these offices equal to specified salaries in the judicial branch (i.e., the Supreme Court chief justice for the governor and Superior Court judge for the others) beginning with the next term for these offices (i.e., beginning January 4, 2023). For subsequent terms, the bill generally links the elected office's salary with the corresponding judicial salary.

The bill also repeals the Compensation Commission, which under current law must make recommendations to the legislature by February 15 in odd-numbered years for compensation for the governor, lieutenant governor, constitutional officers, and legislators.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original bill (File 549), which required a study of the state's revenue policies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023, except that the provisions on the process for legislator compensation adjustments and repealing the Compensation Commission are effective July 1, 2022.

§§ 1 & 2 — LEGISLATORS***Salary for 2023-2024 Term (§ 1)***

Beginning January 4, 2023, the bill increases the annual base salary for legislators from \$28,000 to \$40,000. It also increases salaries for specified leadership positions, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Annual Salaries for Leadership Positions, 2023-2024 Term

<i>Position</i>	<i>Salary Under Current Law</i>	<i>Salary Under the Bill</i>
House speaker and Senate president pro tempore	\$38,689	\$52,000
House and Senate majority and minority leaders	36,835	50,000
House and Senate deputy majority and minority leaders and deputy House speaker	34,446	49,000
House and Senate assistant majority and minority leaders and majority and minority whips, and standing committee chairs (other than the Legislative Management Committee)	32,241	46,500
Standing committee ranking members (other than the Legislative Management Committee)	30,403	44,500

Adjustments for Subsequent Terms (§ 2)

The bill requires the Office of Legislative Management’s executive director to biennially adjust the base legislator and leadership salary amounts for inflation. Specifically, by January 1, 2025, and every two years after that, he must, in consultation with the labor commissioner, determine the percentage change in the employment cost index (ECI) (or its successor index) for wages and salaries for all civilian workers, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor, over the 24-month period ending on the previous June 30, rounded to the nearest cent.

The bill requires the executive director to adjust the salary amounts listed above by January 8, 2025 (i.e., the start of the 2025-2026 term) to reflect the ECI calculation made by January 1, 2025. After that, any subsequent legislator salary adjustment he makes (1) must be based on the immediately preceding salary adjustment and (2) applies on the Wednesday following the first Monday in January after calculating the ECI change (i.e., the start of the new legislative term).

The bill specifies that these provisions do not apply to legislators' health, pension, or other benefits.

§§ 3-7 — GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Current law sets a fixed annual salary for the governor, lieutenant governor, and constitutional officers. Beginning January 4, 2023 (i.e., the start of the new term for each of these offices), the bill instead generally makes the (1) governor's salary equal to the salary for the Supreme Court chief justice and (2) lieutenant governor's and constitutional officers' salaries equal to those for Superior Court judges, as shown in Table 2 below. The judicial salaries are set by statute (CGS § 51-47(a)).

Under the bill, any increase in a judicial salary does not apply to the corresponding elected office until the start date of the next term for that office (i.e., the Wednesday following the first Monday of the January succeeding the next election for that office, see BACKGROUND).

Table 2: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Constitutional Officer Salaries

<i>Official</i>	<i>Salary Under Current Law</i>	<i>Salary Beginning January 4, 2023, Under the Bill*</i>	<i>Current Judicial Salary**</i>
Governor	\$150,000	Same as Supreme Court chief justice	\$215,915
Lieutenant Governor and Constitutional Officers	110,000	Same as Superior Court judge	180,460

*Any increase in the applicable judicial salary would not apply to the corresponding elected office until the start of the following term

**See BACKGROUND for related bill increasing these amounts

§ 8 — COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The bill repeals the Compensation Commission, which under current law consists of 11 members appointed to four-year terms, three by the governor and eight by legislative leaders (two each by the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and the House and Senate minority leaders).

Current law requires the commission to recommend to the legislature proposals for salary, expenses, pension, workers' compensation and any

other benefits for the governor, lieutenant governor, constitutional officers, and legislators. The commission must do so by February 15 in odd-numbered years, and may also submit these recommendations by February 15 in even-numbered years.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

HB 5506, § 131 (i.e., the budget implementer, which the House passed as amended by House “A” and House “C”) increases, beginning July 1, 2022, (1) the chief justice’s salary to \$226,711 and (2) Superior Court judges’ salaries to \$189,483.

State Constitution and Elected Official Salaries

The state constitution prohibits the state from paying or granting any state elected official compensation greater than the amount set at the beginning of the official’s term for the office which he or she holds. For purposes of this prohibition, “compensation” means the official’s salary, exclusive of reimbursement for necessary expenses or any other benefit to which he or she would be entitled by holding the office (Conn. Const. Art. XI, § 2).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 17 (04/06/2022)