

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-85—HB 5406

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION OF LEGISLATORS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

SUMMARY: This act 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 for adjusting these salaries in the future.

Beginning with the next legislative term (i.e., January 4, 2023), the act (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.

The act makes the salaries for the governor, lieutenant governor, and constitutional officers 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., January 4, 2023). For subsequent terms, the act generally links the elected office's salary with the corresponding judicial salary.

The act also repeals the Compensation Commission, which under prior law had to make recommendations to the legislature in odd-numbered years for compensation for the governor, lieutenant governor, constitutional officers, and legislators.

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 act increases the annual base salary for legislators from \$28,000 to \$40,000. It also increases salaries for specified leadership positions, as shown in the table below.

Annual Salaries for Leadership Positions, 2023-2024 Term

| Position | Salary Under Prior Law | Salary Under the Act |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 | 34,446 | 49,000 |

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| <i>Position</i> | <i>Salary Under Prior Law</i> | <i>Salary Under the Act</i> |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| leaders and deputy House speaker | | |
| 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 act 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 adjustments using 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 act 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 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 act specifies that these provisions do not apply to legislators’ health, pension, or other benefits.

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

Prior law set 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 act 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 the table below. The judicial salaries are set by statute (CGS § 51-47(a), as amended by PA 22-118, § 131).

Under the act, any increase in a judicial salary does not apply to the corresponding elected office until the start 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).

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Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Constitutional Officer Salaries

| Official | Salary Under Prior Law | Salary Beginning January 4, 2023, Under the Act* | Judicial Salary as of July 1, 2022 |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Governor | \$150,000 | Same as Supreme Court chief justice | \$226,711 |
| Lieutenant Governor and Constitutional Officers | 110,000 | Same as Superior Court judge | 189,483 |

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

§ 8 — COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The act repeals the Compensation Commission, which under prior law consisted 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 House and Senate minority leaders).

Prior law required 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.

BACKGROUND

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. For this prohibition, "compensation" means the official's salary, excluding 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).