

Approved: January 26, 1999
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:00 a.m. on January 20, 1999 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Jack Hawn, KPERS Assistant Director

Others attending: See Attached list

Senator Jones introduced Valarie Jones, a student from Washburn University, who is serving as his intern for this session.

Senator Oleen introduced three students from her district who are serving as pages for the day, Dezarae Allbritton, Terrica James, and Michael Tyson, students of Apostolic Academy, Junction City, Kansas.

Ben Barrett reviewed the First Biennial Report; December 1, 1998 prepared by the Compensation Commission. The commission is composed of 7 members all non legislators. The Commission studies the compensation, expense allowance, and reimbursement of members of the Legislature. **SB 55** was the result of the Commission study. The statutes state that in order for this bill to become effective, it must be enacted by no later than February 1 of the odd-numbered year of introduction. This was to ensure the importance of the legislation and it be acted on quickly. Mr. Barrett stated that the date would not be regarded as binding. The Commission compared salaries of legislators of 10 surrounding states and found that Kansas was next to last in regards to the current compensation and would rank about in the middle of the 10 surrounding states if the proposed compensation plan was approved.

Senator Oleen inquired whether or not there was any discussion by the Commission relative to the salary based on the differences of the number of constituents and the number of interim committees legislatures serve on. Mr. Barrett stated that this was discussed, however the calculation was based on the average number of days for all legislators.

Senator Jones requested information on Leadership pay; how it is based, how the figures were derived at and what it is based on. Does this compensation plan cause leadership pay to increase? Mr. Barrett stated that this bill would have no impact on leadership. Leadership salary was established and since that time, has generally been increased the same way other legislative compensation has been increased.

Senator Gooch questioned how subsistence allowance would be changed by this law. Mr. Barrett stated that subsistence allowance will not be changed by this compensation plan.

Mr. Barrett stated that the compensation pay system would represent a compensation increase of about \$5,000 to \$5,5000 per legislator per year. The compensation would be adjusted automatically for cost-of-living adjustments that the Legislature approves for the general pay plan for classified state employees, just as the current per diem compensation is adjusted.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 254-E
Statehouse, at 11:08 a.m., on January 20, 1999

Senator Bleeker requested that Ben Barrett provide information showing the number of legislatures in the last 10 years who failed to retain their seats or did not run for reelection and did not make it into the KPERS System and if this information could be broken down by Senate and House.

Senator Harrington requested information on KPERS regarding the fact that if legislators choose not to join KPERS when they first were eligible that they would have to have a break in service in order to join. Mr. Hawn stated that a comprehensive bill was passed last legislative session regarding compliance with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines and this was one of their guidelines. KPERS feeling is that a reelection would be a break in service, however Federal IRS does not see term as a break in service. Senator Oleen requested that Mr. Hawn bring this matter up at a KPERS Board of Directors meeting and try to address this matter again.

Since the bill becomes effective as of 2001 Legislative session Mr. Barrett stated that the fiscal note on this bill would be negative for 2001, since this would be for half a fiscal year. The increase cost for the 2nd year would be between \$700,000 and \$800,000.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 1999.

