

TO: Senator Rick Billinger, Chairman
Senator J.R. Claeys, Vice Chairman
Senator Pat Pettey, Ranking Minority Member
Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Will Lawrence, Chief of Staff, Governor Laura Kelly

DATE: April 4, 2023

RE: Testimony regarding Senate Bill 152

Chairman Patton, Vice Chairman Claeys, Ranking Member Pettey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in regard to Senate Bill 152. The Governor has long supported a review of legislative salaries and is glad that a commission is being established to review and make recommendations regarding such compensation. It makes sense to have discussions regarding statewide and judicial pay at the same time. While I will not take a position regarding specific salary levels, I would encourage the legislature to maintain the concepts in current law regarding how salaries are broken out. Under current law, the Attorney General is set at a level above the other statewide elected officers but below the Governor. That should be maintained in whatever salary is proposed.

As you review what levels of compensation are appropriate within this legislation, I would encourage you to review and consider what other states provide in compensation as a guiding principle.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.