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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1937**

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 30-19.11 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 30 an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 30-19.21 and 30-19.22, relating to General Assembly; Legislator Compensation Commission established.*

Patrons—Plum and Kory

Referred to Committee on Rules

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 30-19.11 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 30 an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 30-19.21 and 30-19.22, as follows:**

*Article 1.**Salaries and Expenses.***§ 30-19.11. Salaries of Speaker of House of Delegates and members of General Assembly.**

The Speaker of the House of Delegates and *all* other members of the General Assembly shall each receive an annual salary as shall be set forth in the general ~~appropriations~~ *appropriation* act. Such salaries shall be payable not more often than biweekly.

*Article 2.**Legislator Compensation Commission.***§ 30-19.21. Legislator Compensation Commission; establishment; purpose.**

A. There shall be established every four years the Legislator Compensation Commission for the purpose of reviewing the salaries, expense allowances, retirement benefits, and other emoluments received by members of the General Assembly and determining whether any adjustments to salaries or allowances are needed. The Commission shall cease to exist upon the submission of its report pursuant to § 30-19.22, until a new Commission is established and new members are appointed.

B. The Commission shall consist of six members, who shall be appointed by the Joint Rules Committee no later than July 1 of any year in which a gubernatorial election is scheduled, as follows:

1. Two former Governors of the Commonwealth, with equal representation given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election;

2. Two former members of the Senate of Virginia, with equal representation given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of members in the Senate; and

3. Two former members of the House of Delegates, with equal representation given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of members in the House of Delegates.

C. Persons appointed to the Commission shall serve until the submission of its report pursuant to § 30-19.22. Any vacancy on the Commission occurring during this period shall be filled in the same manner of the original appointment and for the duration of the Commission's existence.

D. Commission members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses that were incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this article.

E. Staff support shall be provided jointly by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Office of the Clerk of the Senate. Additional assistance shall be provided by the staffs of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations.

**§ 30-19.22. Powers and duties; report.**

A. The Commission shall review the salaries, expense allowances, retirement benefits, and other emoluments received by members of the General Assembly. In conducting its review, the Commission shall (i) review the current salaries, expense allowances, retirement benefits, and other emoluments of the members of the General Assembly; (ii) examine the Commonwealth's history of legislative compensation; (iii) review the compensation, expenses, and benefits for legislative service in other states; (iv) assess various state methodologies in determining reasonable legislative compensation, including the tying of salaries to certain indexes or economic indicators; and (v) seek the assistance and input of legislators and other citizens by conducting surveys and holding public hearings as may be appropriate.

B. The Commission shall determine whether any adjustments to salaries, expense allowances, or other emoluments or benefits are needed and shall submit its findings and recommendations in a report

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59 *to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 1 of the year following a gubernatorial*  
60 *election. The Governor shall either include the recommended adjustments, if any, in the Budget Bill*  
61 *submitted pursuant to § 2.2-1509 or present to the Joint Rules Committee, at a meeting convened for*  
62 *such purpose, the reasons for not including the Commission's recommended adjustments.*

63 *C. Any adjustments to salaries, expense allowances, or other emoluments or benefits that are*  
64 *recommended by the Commission and included in a budget bill that is subsequently adopted by the*  
65 *General Assembly shall be effective beginning January 1 of the year immediately following the general*  
66 *election for all members of the General Assembly.*