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HOUSE BILL NO. 1488

Offered January 13, 1999

Prefiled December 18, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 30-19.11, 30-19.12 and 30-19.14 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 30-19.12:1 and by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 1.2, consisting of sections numbered 30-19.21, 30-19.22 and 30-19.23, relating to legislative compensation; creating the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Legislative Compensation.

Patrons—Callahan; Senator: Gartlan

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 30-19.11, 30-19.12 and 30-19.14 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted, and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 30-19.12:1 and by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 1.2, consisting of sections numbered 30-19.21, 30-19.22 and 30-19.23 as follows:

§ 30-19.11. Regular salaries of Speaker of House of Delegates and members of General Assembly.

The Speaker of the House of Delegates and other members of the General Assembly shall each receive an annual salary as. *The regular salary of the Speaker shall be \$36,321 and shall be equal to the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. Beginning January 12, 2000, the regular salary of the other members of the General Assembly shall be set forth in the general appropriations act \$26,000.* Such salaries shall be payable not more often than biweekly. *No increase in regular salary shall take effect for the Speaker or for a given member until after the end of the term for which he was elected.*

§ 30-19.12. Additional salaries of members of General Assembly engaged in legislative services.

A. Subject to the provisions of subsections B through ED hereof, ~~members of all legislative committees, legislative commissions and councils established by the General Assembly and all committees and subcommittees of any of the foregoing shall receive compensation at such rate as provided for in § 2.1-20.3~~any member of the General Assembly who is a member of a legislative committee, legislative commission or council established by the General Assembly or any committee or subcommittee of any of the forgoing shall receive, beginning January 12, 2000, additional salary at a rate of \$160 per day for attending meetings of such group. Any other member of the General Assembly whose attendance, in the opinion of the chairman of such a group, is required at a sitting of such group shall also be entitled to ~~compensation~~ receive additional salary at the same rate.

B. Legislative members shall not be entitled to ~~compensation~~ additional salary pursuant to this section for any services performed on any day that the General Assembly is in session.

C. Full-time employees of the Commonwealth or of any of its political subdivisions shall not be entitled to compensation pursuant to this section.

DC. No person member shall receive pursuant to this section a total of more than one day's ~~compensation~~ additional salary for services performed on any one day. Whenever a member attends two or more meetings for which ~~compensation~~ additional salary is authorized herein in a single day, such one day's ~~compensation~~ salary shall be prorated from among the activities served.

ED. ~~Compensation of~~ Additional salary for members of the General Assembly provided for in this section shall be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or Clerk of the Senate as appropriate and funds therefor transferred from the appropriate activity.

§ 30-19.12:1. Compensation for citizen members of certain bodies engaged in legislative services.

Citizens who are members of legislative committees, legislative commissions and councils established by the General Assembly and all committees and subcommittees of any of the forgoing shall receive compensation at such rate as provided for in § 2.1-20.3. Full-time employees of the Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions shall not be entitled to compensation pursuant to this section. No person shall receive pursuant to this section a total of more than one day's compensation for services performed for any one day. Whenever a person attends two or more meetings for which compensation is authorized herein in a single day, such one day's compensation shall be prorated from the among the activities served.

§ 30-19.14. Office expenses.

~~Each~~ A. Subject to the provisions of subsections B and C below, each member of the General Assembly shall receive as reimbursement for office expenses and supplies such sums as shall be set forth in the general appropriation actan allowance for office expenses that includes a quandrennial allowance for office equipment and an annual allowance for the expenses of operating an office or

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60 offices in the member's legislative district.

61 B. The maximum allowance for office equipment shall be set at \$2,500. A member shall be entitled
62 to reimbursement from this allowance at any time during the four-year period for office equipment
63 acquired for his legislative office in his district upon submission to his respective Clerk of a voucher
64 and accompanying receipts for purchase of such equipment.

65 C. The maximum allowance for expenses of operating an office or offices in the member's legislative
66 district shall be \$1,500 per month for a member who maintains a legislative office outside his home,
67 business, or the General Assembly Building and shall be \$1,000 per month for a member who do not
68 maintain a separate legislative office in his district. To qualify to receive payments from the office
69 allowance, a member shall submit prior to taking office and annually in January thereafter a
70 declaration of need for reimbursement of office expenses which shall exclude reimbursement of
71 equipment expenses received or expected to be received under subsection B. Such declaration shall be
72 on a form approved by the Rules Committee of each house and shall be filed with the respective Clerk
73 of the House or the Senate and shall be open for public inspection in the Clerk's office. The declaration
74 shall provide an estimated annual budget for office expenses for the coming year and, after the first
75 year, shall include a summary accounting of the expenses for the previous year. The declaration shall
76 be submitted under oath and shall be valid for one year. Payments of the office allowance up to the
77 authorized maximum amount shall be made monthly by the respective Clerk based on the estimated
78 annual budget included in the declaration. No office allowance payments shall be made to any member
79 who does not file a declaration as required by this section.

80 CHAPTER 1.2.

81 CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION.

82 § 30-19.21. Commission; powers and duties.

83 Beginning on July 1, 2002, and quadrennially thereafter, the Joint Rules Committee shall appoint a
84 temporary Citizens' Advisory Commission on Legislative Compensation (the Commission). The
85 Commission shall review the salaries, retirement benefits, expense allowances, and other emoluments of
86 the members of the General Assembly and their legislative assistants and secretaries. In conducting its
87 review, the Commission may:

- 88 1. Examine the Commonwealth's history of legislative compensation;
- 89 2. Review the compensation, expenses, and benefits for legislative service in other states;
- 90 3. Collect and analyze data on comparative salaries in the private and public sectors;
- 91 4. Assess various state methodologies in determining reasonable legislative compensation, including
92 the tying of salaries to certain indexes or economic indicators; and
- 93 5. Seek the assistance and input of legislators and other citizens by conducting surveys and holding
94 public hearings as may be appropriate.

95 The Commission shall determine whether any adjustments in compensation, expenses or benefits are
96 needed and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or
97 before December 1 of the year preceding the election of all members of the General Assembly. Upon the
98 submission of its report, the Commission shall cease to exist.

99 § 30-19.22. Membership; vacancies; chairman; expenses.

100 A. The Commission shall be composed of nine citizen members appointed by the Joint Rules
101 Committee. Members or employees of the legislative, judicial or executive branch shall not be eligible
102 for appointment to the Commission. The Commission shall elect a chairman from among its
103 membership.

104 B. Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
105 was made and shall be filled for the duration of the Commission's existence. Members of any such
106 Commission shall be eligible for reappointment in the future.

107 C. Commission members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their
108 reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as Commission members.

109 § 30-19.23. Staff; cooperation and assistance.

110 Staff assistance shall be provided to the Commission by the Division of Legislative Services. All
111 agencies, authorities, and institutions of the Commonwealth shall cooperate and provide such assistance
112 to the Commission as the Commission may request.