

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 249

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREEN

ELECTED OFFICIALS/COMP: Provides for the establishment and powers, functions, and duties of the compensation commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 26 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 42:1481 through 1485, relative to compensation of elected officials; to
4 provide for the Compensation Commission; to provide for the membership of the
5 commission; to provide for the powers, duties, and functions of the commission; to
6 provide the evaluation and establishment of salaries and other compensation of
7 certain elected officials by the commission; to provide for the duties of the legislative
8 auditor relative to commission; to provide relative to assistance to the commission;
9 to provide for the implementation and effectiveness; and to provide for related
10 matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. Chapter 26 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
13 comprised of R.S. 42:1481 through 1485, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 CHAPTER 26. COMPENSATION COMMISSION

15 §1481. Compensation Commission; domicile; meetings; staffing

16 A. The Compensation Commission, hereafter referred to in this Chapter as
17 the "commission", is hereby created pursuant to Article X, Section 23.1 of the
18 Constitution of Louisiana.

19 B.(1) The commission shall meet at least once each quarter until it completes
20 a comprehensive examination and evaluation of the salary and other compensation

1 for each elected official whose salary or other compensation was established by
2 statute prior to January 1, 2024, and establishes a new salary and other compensation
3 for each office or class of offices based upon its examination and evaluation.

4 (2) The commission shall establish a work schedule for its examination and
5 evaluation of the salary and other compensation of elected officials to ensure that it
6 is able to establish a new salary and other compensation for each office or class of
7 offices within its purview no later than January 15, 2035.

8 C. The commission shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as an
9 independent office within the legislative auditor's office. The legislative auditor
10 shall provide staff support to the commission as requested and directed by the
11 commission.

12 §1482. Membership; qualifications; term of office; officers

13 A. The commission shall be composed of fifteen members who shall be
14 selected as follows:

15 (1) The governor shall appoint three members.

16 (2) The supreme court shall appoint one member.

17 (3) The Conference of Court of Appeal Judges shall appoint one member.

18 (4) The Louisiana District Judges Association shall appoint one member.

19 (5) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association shall appoint one member.

20 (6) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association shall appoint one member.

21 (7) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association shall appoint one member.

22 (8) The Louisiana State Coroner's Association shall appoint one member.

23 (9) The Louisiana Assessors' Association shall appoint one member.

24 (10) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member.

25 (11) The member of the House of Representatives who is the chairman of the
26 largest caucus or delegation of members of a political party with which the speaker
27 of the House is not affiliated shall appoint one member.

28 (12) The president of the Senate shall appoint one member.

1 (13) The member of the Senate who is the chairman of the largest caucus or
2 delegation of members of a political party with which the president of the Senate is
3 not affiliated shall appoint one member.

4 B. All appointments to the commission shall be made from a list of qualified
5 nominees submitted by the presidents of the accredited nonprofit private institutions
6 of higher education domiciled in the state who shall constitute the nominating
7 committee. The nominating committee shall timely submit the names of no fewer
8 than five different eligible nominees for each position to each appointing authority
9 listed in Subsection A of this Section. In the case of a vacancy, the nominating
10 committee shall timely submit the names of no fewer than five different eligible
11 nominees for the vacant position to the appropriate appointing authority. In
12 preparing the list of nominees, the nominating committee shall give due
13 consideration to the demographics of the population of the state, including without
14 limitation geography, gender, and race.

15 C. Each person nominated to serve on the commission shall be a qualified
16 elector of this state and shall not be a lobbyist or an employee of a lobbyist, a public
17 employee, an elected public official, or an appointed public official other than as a
18 member of the commission.

19 D. Members of the commission shall serve one ten-year term and vacancies
20 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A member of the
21 commission may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the membership of the
22 commission.

23 E. The member selected by the supreme court shall call the first meeting of
24 the commission. At the first meeting, the commission shall elect a chairman and any
25 other officers its deems necessary from among its members.

26 §1483. Commission members; compensation prohibited; expenses

27 Members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their
28 services, but may be reimbursed actual expenses incurred in the performance of their
29 duties as members of the commission.

1 §1484. Duties and functions

2 A. The commission shall conduct a comprehensive examination and
3 evaluation of the salary and other compensation for each elected official whose
4 salary or other compensation was established by statute prior to January 1, 2024,
5 including statewide elected officials, Public Service Commissioners, judges, district
6 attorneys, sheriffs, coroners, clerks of court, tax assessors, and members of the
7 legislature.

8 B. The commission shall publish its compensation recommendation for an
9 office no later than January fifteenth of the last full calendar year of a term of office
10 for that office or class of offices following its evaluation of the salary and other
11 compensation for that office or class of offices. The change in salary and other
12 compensation shall become effective at the beginning of the subsequent term of
13 office for that office. In the case of a class of offices with staggered terms, the
14 change in compensation for that entire class of offices shall become effective at the
15 beginning of first term of an office within the class following the establishment of
16 the salary or other compensation. Any provision of law conflicting with the change
17 in salary and other compensation established by commission shall be null and of no
18 effect.

19 C. All departments, agencies, and officials of the state and of political
20 subdivisions of the state shall cooperate in furnishing to the commission such
21 information and assistance as the commission deems necessary to discharge its
22 duties.

23 §1485. Termination

24 The commission shall terminate on January 15, 2035, or when it notifies the
25 legislature that it has completed its duty, whichever is earlier.

26 Section 2. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when the proposed
27 amendment of Article X of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which
28 originated as House Bill No. ____ of this 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature is adopted
29 at a statewide election and becomes effective.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 249 Original

2024 Regular Session

Green

Abstract: Provides for a 15-member compensation commission to evaluate and establish the compensation of each elected official whose salary or other compensation was established by statute prior to Jan. 1, 2024.

Proposed law provides for the Compensation Commission. Requires it to complete a comprehensive examination and evaluation of the salary and other compensation for each elected official whose salary or other compensation was established by statute prior to Jan. 1, 2024, and to establish a new salary and other compensation for each office or class of offices based upon its examination and evaluation no later than Jan. 15, 2035. Provides that it consists of 15 members who serve 10-year terms all appointed from a list of eligible nominees as follows:

- (1) The governor shall appoint three members.
- (2) The supreme court shall appoint one member.
- (3) The Conference of Court of Appeal Judges shall appoint one member.
- (4) The La. District Judges Assoc. shall appoint one member.
- (5) The La. District Attorneys Assoc. shall appoint one member.
- (6) The La. Sheriffs' Assoc. shall appoint one member.
- (7) The La. Clerks of Court Assoc. shall appoint one member.
- (8) The La. State Coroner's Assoc. shall appoint one member.
- (9) The La. Assessors' Assoc. shall appoint one member.
- (10) The speaker of the House shall appoint one member.
- (11) The member of the House of Representatives who is the chairman of the largest caucus or delegation of members of a political party with which the speaker of the House is not affiliated shall appoint one member.
- (12) The president of the Senate shall appoint one member.
- (13) The member of the Senate who is the chairman of the largest caucus or delegation of members of a political party with which the president of the Senate is not affiliated shall appoint one member.

Proposed law provides that appointments to the commission shall be from a timely submitted list of least five eligible qualified nominees for each position to each appointing authority. Provides members may be removed by the commission for cause and that vacancies are filled in the manner of original appointment.

Proposed law provides that members must be residents and qualified voters of the state and shall not be a lobbyist or an employee of a lobbyist, a public employee, an elected public

official, or an appointed public official other than as a member of the commission. Specifies that the commission shall elect one of its members chairman and any other officers it deems necessary. Prohibits commission from receiving compensation for their services, but provides allows reimbursement of actual expenses. Provides that the commission is domiciled in Baton Rouge and shall meet at least quarterly. Provides that any necessary staff shall be provided by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law requires the commission to publish its compensation recommendation for an office no later than Jan. 15th of the last full calendar year of a term of office for that office or class of offices following its evaluation of the salary and other compensation for that office or class of offices. Provides that the change in salary and other compensation shall become effective at the beginning of the subsequent term of office for that office (or for the beginning of the first term of an office in a class of offices with staggered terms) and any conflicting provision of law shall be null and of no effect.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall terminate on Jan. 15, 2035, or when it notifies the legislature that it has completed its duty, whichever is earlier.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article X of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. ____ of this 2024 R.S. of the Legislature is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Adds R.S. 42:1481-1485)