

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 24:31.1(A), 502(A), 504(B), 506(A), and 507(B), relative to compensation of members of the legislature and per diem; to provide for per diem during regular and extraordinary sessions; to provide for an increase in the compensation paid to legislators; to provide for an increase in compensation paid to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate; to provide for an increase in the compensation paid to the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate; to provide for an increase in compensation paid to the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 24:31.1(A), 502(A), 504(B), 506(A), and 507(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§31.1. Salary for members; expense allowance; mileage allowance

A.**(1)** In addition to the per diem and all other allowances provided by law for members of the Legislature of Louisiana, each member of the legislature, except the president and the president pro tempore of the Senate, **the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee**, and the speaker and the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, **the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee**, shall be paid a salary in the full sum of ~~sixteen thousand eight hundred~~ **thirty-seven thousand five hundred** dollars per annum. **Beginning on July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, if there**

1 has been an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers
2 (CPI-U), as prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of
3 Labor Statistics in the preceding calendar year, the salary shall be adjusted by
4 the same percentage as the increase in that CPI-U rounded to the nearest whole
5 dollar.

6 (2) The salary of the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the
7 chairman of the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, the chairman
8 of the House Appropriations Committee, and the chairman of the House Ways
9 and Means Committee shall be fifty-four thousand seven hundred fifty dollars
10 per annum. Beginning on July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, if there has
11 been an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U),
12 as prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
13 Statistics in the preceding calendar year, the salary shall be adjusted by the
14 same percentage as the increase in that CPI-U rounded to the nearest whole
15 dollar.

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17 §502. Speaker of the House of Representatives; salary; expenses

18 A. The salary of the speaker of the House of Representatives shall be ~~thirty-~~
19 ~~two thousand~~ seventy-one thousand two hundred fifty dollars per annum, such
20 salary to be payable monthly on his own warrant and drawn on the general fund of
21 the state. Beginning on July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, if there has been
22 an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), as
23 prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
24 in the preceding calendar year, the salary shall be adjusted by the same
25 percentage as the increase in that CPI-U rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

26 This salary shall be compensation to the speaker for service to the House of
27 Representatives, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions
28 of the legislature and during the interim between sessions.

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30 §504. Speaker pro tempore; assumption of duties of speaker; salary

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B. The salary of the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives shall be ~~twenty-four thousand five hundred~~ **fifty-four thousand seven hundred fifty** dollars per annum. **Beginning on July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, if there has been an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), as prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in the preceding calendar year, the salary shall be adjusted by the same percentage as the increase in that CPI-U rounded to the nearest whole dollar.** This salary shall be compensation to the speaker pro tempore for service to the House of Representatives, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the interim between sessions. The salary provided for in this Section shall be payable in the same manner as provided in R.S. 24:31.1(B). The speaker pro tempore shall be entitled to the per diem and all other allowances provided by law for members of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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§506. President of the Senate; salary; expenses

A. The salary of the president of the Senate shall be ~~thirty-two thousand~~ **seventy-one thousand two hundred fifty** dollars per annum, such salary to be payable monthly on his own warrant and drawn on the general fund of the state. **Beginning on July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, if there has been an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), as prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in the preceding calendar year, the salary shall be adjusted by the same percentage as the increase in that CPI-U rounded to the nearest whole dollar.** This salary shall be compensation to the president for service to the Senate, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the interim between sessions.

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§507. President pro tempore; assumption of duties of president; salary

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B. The salary of the president pro tempore of the Senate shall be ~~twenty-four thousand five hundred~~ **fifty-four thousand seven hundred fifty** dollars per annum.

Beginning on July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, if there has been an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), as prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in the preceding calendar year, the salary shall be adjusted by the same percentage as the increase in that CPI-U rounded to the nearest whole dollar. This salary shall

be compensation to the president pro tempore for service to the Senate, including that rendered during regular and extraordinary sessions of the legislature and during the interim between sessions. The salary provided for in this Section shall be payable in the same manner as provided in R.S. 24:31.1(B). The president pro tempore shall be entitled to the per diem and all other allowances provided by law for members of the Legislature of Louisiana.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2008.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

VETO MESSAGE

"Since January, this Legislature has worked to accomplish unprecedented reforms for the people of Louisiana in two special sessions and one regular legislative session. Together, we have worked to transform the ethics code in our state, requiring disclosure at every level of government, prohibiting conflicts of interest, and moving Louisiana from the bottom of the list to the top in a national good government ranking.

We have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in our state's ports and infrastructure and worked to cut or eliminate six taxes, including:

1. accelerating the elimination of the tax on business debt;
2. accelerating the elimination of the tax on business for machinery and equipment;
3. eliminating the burdensome tax on business utilities;
4. providing a tax deduction for tuition and student expense;
5. re-authorizing Louisiana's New Markets Tax Credits; and
6. completely eliminating the Stelly income tax increase on Louisiana taxpayers.

Together we have overhauled the workforce development system in our state, eliminating the Department of Labor and creating a Workforce Commission that puts Louisiana businesses and workers, not bureaucrats, in the driver's seat for workforce policy. We have also taken huge steps forward in reforming our mental health care system and providing more coverage for the uninsured. We raised teacher pay and expanded educational opportunities for our children.

Additionally, we have passed laws targeting those who prey on our children, increasing five-fold the penalties for sex offenders and doubling the sentence for the computer-aided solicitation of a minor.

We also made an historic move by passing a budget that eliminates our state's long-held, unhealthy reliance on one-time revenue for recurring expenditures.

Our reforms have been bold, unprecedented and ambitious – and they have stretched to nearly every area of our state's government. To be clear, this is a record that we can all be proud of, and it has very much been a collaborative effort between the Legislature and my administration.

More than any piece of legislation, perhaps our greatest accomplishment has been the restoration of the public's trust in state government and in the belief that we can create a new Louisiana, which will grow and prosper.

That said, it is very clear that all of our great progress notwithstanding, the public is fast losing its confidence in state government because of the legislative pay raise bill. We can only effectively govern with the consent of the governed. If we do not have the support and confidence of the people, we might as well go home.

For that reason I have vetoed SB 672.

I had previously indicated that while I believe a raise more than doubling legislative pay to be excessive, I would not stop it, instead allowing the Legislature to direct its own affairs. I did not want to do anything that could slow down our reform movement or stop our march toward reform, growth, and progress in Louisiana. That decision was a mistake on my part. It is clear to me that this legislative pay raise is in itself a threat to our reform movement and our progress as a state.

By now you are aware of the reasons I have objected to this raise: a doubling of legislative pay is excessive, I oppose a system of future automatic pay increases without subsequent

legislative action, and I believe putting any salary increase into effect in advance of the next election is bad policy. The voters, who are our collective bosses in this job, should be able to either ratify or reject a legislative pay raise at the ballot box in regular legislative elections before those funds are expended.

For these reasons, I have vetoed SB 672 and hereby return it to the Senate. It is my hope that we can now move on to other issues together and get back to doing the good work the people of Louisiana elected us to do."