**CHAPTER 377** 

## **GOVERNMENT - STATE**

HOUSE BILL 24-1059

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) English and Ricks, Bacon, Boesenecker, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lindsay, Parenti, Sirota, Story, Velasco, Woodrow:

also SENATOR(S) Hansen and Winter F., Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Jaquez Lewis, Michaelson Jenet, Priola.

## AN ACT

CONCERNING COMPENSATION FOR STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE INDEPENDENT STATE ELECTED OFFICIAL PAY COMMISSION AND MODIFYING THE AMOUNT OF PER DIEM ALLOWED TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR EXPENSES INCURRED DURING SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

**SECTION 1.** Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that it is the intent of the general assembly in creating the independent state elected official pay commission that the initial commission and each subsequent commission thereafter be established as an independent and temporary commission comprised of Coloradans who reflect the state's diversity with regard to geography, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, and socioeconomic background.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-2-317, **amend** (1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(b)(II) introductory portion, (1)(b)(II)(A), (1)(c)(II), (2)(a), and (2)(b); and **add** (1)(b.5) as follows:

**2-2-317.** Expense, subsistence, and travel allowance - definitions. (1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1), SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION, each member of the general assembly shall be is entitled to receive up to forty-five dollars per legislative day UNTIL JUNE 30, 2025, for expenses incurred during the sessions of the general assembly. Such allowance shall be considered as salary pursuant to section 24-51-101 (42). C.R.S. Each member of the general assembly who is serving on July 1, 1997, and who is entitled to such allowance may elect to have all of such allowance that was paid to the member

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

during the period from January 1, 1992, through May 31, 1994, be considered salary pursuant to section 24-51-101 (42), C.R.S., subject to the following conditions:

Ch. 377

- (b) (II) In lieu of the expenses allowed in subsection (1)(a) of this section, if a member does not reside in the Denver metropolitan area, which area shall be designated in guidelines established by the executive committee of legislative council, the member shall be is entitled to receive per legislative day for expenses incurred during the sessions of the general assembly up to an amount equal to the following:
- (A) For fiscal years commencing prior to July 1, 2020, and on or after July 1, 2021, BUT BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, eighty-five percent of the federal per diem rate for the city and county of Denver, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, as determined by the United States general services administration, or such succeeding entity, as of October 1 of the calendar year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the per diem rate is to be used; and
- (b.5) (I) For fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2025, each member of the general assembly is entitled to receive per legislative day for expenses incurred during the sessions of the general assembly up to an amount equal to the following:
- (A) For a member that resides in the Denver metropolitan area, which area shall be designated in Guidelines established by the executive committee of Legislative Council, twenty-five percent of the federal per diem rate for the city and county of Denver, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, as determined by the United States general services administration, or such succeeding entity, as of October 1 of the calendar year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the per diem rate is to be used; and
- (B) For a member that does not reside in the Denver metropolitan area, which area shall be designated in guidelines established by the executive committee of legislative council, ninety percent of the federal per diem rate for the city and county of Denver, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar, as determined by the United States general services administration, or such succeeding entity, as of October 1 of the calendar year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the per diem rate is to be used.
- (II) The allowance provided in subsection (1)(b.5)(I) of this section is not salary, as defined in section 24-51-101 (42).
- (c) (II) The per diem lodging and expense allowances of the general assembly as fixed by subparagraph (II) of paragraph (b) of this subsection (1) SUBSECTIONS (1)(b)(II) AND (1)(b.5) OF THIS SECTION shall apply to regular or special sessions of the general assembly subsequent to July 1, 2012.
- (2) (a) Each member of the general assembly who is entitled to claim a per diem lodging and expense allowance pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) SUBSECTIONS (1)(a) AND (1)(b.5)(I)(A) of this section shall is also be entitled to

receive travel expenses to <del>such</del> THE member's home and back to the capitol for each legislative day of actual attendance.

(b) Each member of the general assembly who is entitled to claim an expense per diem pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (1) SUBSECTIONS (1)(b) AND (1)(b.5)(I)(B) of this section shall is also be entitled to receive travel expenses to any location within such THE member's district and back to Denver once each week, pursuant to section 2-2-316.

## **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-9-106 as follows:

- **24-9-106.** Independent state elected official pay commission creation report definitions. (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) "Commission" means the independent state elected official pay commission created in subsection (2) of this section.
- (b) "State elected official" means a state officer or a member of the general assembly.
- (c) "State officer" means the governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, the secretary of state, or the state treasurer.
- (2) The independent state elected official pay commission is created. The commission shall set compensation for state elected officials. The commission shall meet beginning in 2025 and shall meet every four years thereafter.
- (3) (a) The commission consists of nine appointed members. Subject to the provisions set forth in subsection (3)(b) of this section, the members are appointed as follows:
  - (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THREE MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:
- (A) One member with expertise in personnel management and human resources;
  - (B) ONE MEMBER WITH EXPERTISE IN AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP; AND
  - (C) ONE MEMBER WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE;
- (II) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS, ONE MEMBER WITH EXPERTISE IN LARGE BUSINESS AND ONE MEMBER WITH EXPERTISE IN ORGANIZED LABOR;
- (III) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS, ONE MEMBER WITH EXPERTISE IN SMALL BUSINESS AND ONE MEMBER WHO IS PART OF A MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION;

- (IV) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT A MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERTISE WITH SALARY SURVEYS AND TOTAL COMPENSATION ANALYSIS; AND
- (V) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL APPOINT A MEMBER WHO HAS LARGE NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE.
- (b) The appointment of members must be in accordance with the following requirements:
  - (I) A MEMBER MUST BE A REGISTERED ELECTOR;
- (II) A MEMBER MUST NOT BE A CURRENT OR FORMER STATE OFFICIAL, A CURRENT OR FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SPOUSE OF A CURRENT STATE OFFICIAL OR MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OR A CANDIDATE TO BE A STATE ELECTED OFFICIAL:
- (III) A member must not be a registered lobbyist or a person who has lobbied as a registered lobbyist in the eight years immediately preceding the appointment date for the member; and
- (IV) At any time, no more than four members may be from the same political party and no more than two members may be from the same congressional district of the state.
- (c) The president of the senate shall designate one of the members that the president of the senate appoints to serve as the chairperson of the commission and the speaker of the house shall designate one of the members that the speaker of the house appoints to serve as the vice-chairperson of the commission.
- (d) (I) The initial commission members shall be appointed on or before July 31,2025, and shall serve until the submission of the report required by subsection (5)(a) of this section.
- (II) Subsequent commission members shall be appointed on or before July 31 of each year in which the commission meets and shall serve until the submission of that commission's report.
  - (III) EACH COMMISSION EXPIRES UPON SUBMISSION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT.
- (4) (a) The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the initial commission shall convene the first meeting of the commission no later than September 1, 2025, and the commission shall meet as many times as necessary thereafter before submitting the report required by subsection (5)(a) of this section.
- (b) After the initial commission expires, the chairperson and vice-chairperson of subsequent commissions shall convene the first meeting of a commission no later than September 1 of each year in which the commission meets and such commissions shall meet as many times as

NECESSARY THEREAFTER BEFORE SUBMITTING THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

- (5) (a) On or before December 15, 2025, the initial commission, and on or before December 15 of each year thereafter in which the commission meets, subsequent commissions, shall submit a report to the office of state planning and budgeting created in section 24-37-102, to the joint budget committee of the general assembly, to the president of the senate, to the speaker of the house of representatives, and to the director of research of the legislative council appointed pursuant to section 2-3-304 (1) that sets forth the commission's recommendations for annual salaries and allowances for each state official and for members of the general assembly.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5)(c) of this section, the salaries and allowances recommended in the report due on or before December 15, 2025, take effect on January 1, 2027, and the salaries and allowances recommended in subsequent reports take effect on January 1 of the first year of each subsequent four-year gubernatorial term if the general assembly makes an appropriation to pay the recommended salaries and allowances during the legislative session immediately preceding such year.
- (c) Before the effective date of the recommended salaries and allowances, the general assembly may modify or reject the recommendations.
- (6) (a) Any report submitted by the commission, as required by subsection (5) of this section, must include recommendations regarding:
- (I) THE AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL BASE COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS ALLOWED BY SECTION 2-2-307 (1)(b);
- (II) THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION THAT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE ALLOWED FOR NECESSARY ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OR FUNCTIONS OR TO LEGISLATIVE MATTERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-307 (3)(a);
- (III) THE AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL SALARIES FOR STATE OFFICIALS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-9-101; AND
- (IV) The sum per day allowed as expenses to the president of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, minority leader of the senate, or minority leader of the house of representatives while for any reason acting as governor pursuant to section 24-9-101 (1)(c).
- (b) In making the recommendations required by subsection (6)(a) of this section, the commission shall consider the amount of compensation paid in government service and in the private sector to persons with similar qualifications, the amount of compensation needed to attract and retain experienced and competent persons, and the ability of the state to pay the recommended compensation.

- (7) On or after January 1, 2028, but before January 1, 2029, and before January 1 of each year thereafter, except for the year in which the recommendations of a commission take effect pursuant to this section, the director of research of the legislative council appointed pursuant to section 2-3-304 (1) shall adust the amount of compensation set by the commission in accordance with the percentage change since the immediately preceding January 1, in the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, consumer price index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for all items and all urban consumers, or its applicable predecessor or successor index. The director of research shall post the adjusted annual salary amounts on the website of the general assembly.
- (8) The annual salary of a state elected official whose term begins on or after the date the salaries go into effect pursuant to subsection (5)(b) of this section or adjusted pursuant to subsection (7) of this section must be as set by the commission, except if modified or rejected by the general assembly and then as set by the general assembly, or as adjusted by the director of research.
- (9) (a) The department of Personnel Created in Section 24-50-102 (1) SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SERVICES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.
- (b) Members of the commission serve without compensation but receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses to attend meetings of the commission.
- **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-2-307, **amend** (1)(b) and (3)(a) introductory portion; and **add** (6) as follows:
- **2-2-307.** Compensation of members reimbursement of expenses definition repeal. (1) (b) (I) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1)(b)(II) of this section, commencing on the first day of the legislative session beginning in January of 2019, and the first day of each legislative session beginning in January each two years thereafter, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1,2027, all members of the general assembly whose terms commence on such day and members appointed to fill vacancies for unexpired terms of those members shall receive as an annual base compensation for their services an amount equal to twenty-five percent of the total annual salary paid as of such day to the judges of the county court in Class B counties, as defined in section 13-6-201. The base compensation shall be payable in twelve equal monthly amounts. The director of research of the legislative council appointed pursuant to section 2-3-304 (1) shall post the amount of the current annual base compensation payable to a member of the general assembly pursuant to this subsection (1)(b) on the website of the general assembly. This subsection (1)(b)(I) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.
- (II) For the period commencing on the first day of the legislative session beginning in January of 2021, and ending on the day before the first day of the legislative session beginning in January of 2022, all members of the general assembly whose terms commence on the first day of the legislative session beginning in January of 2021 shall receive as an annual base compensation for their

services forty thousand two hundred forty-two dollars, which is the same amount as the annual base compensation for their services for members of the general assembly whose terms commenced on the first day of the legislative session beginning in January of 2019. This subsection (1)(b)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.

- (III) On or after January 1, 2027, all members of the general assembly shall receive for their services an annual base compensation in the amount set by the commission.
- (IV) The base compensation for all members of the general assembly is payable in twelve equal monthly amounts. The director of research of the legislative council appointed pursuant to section 2-3-304 (1) shall post the amount of the current annual base compensation payable to a member of the general assembly pursuant to this subsection (1)(b) on the website of the general assembly.
- (3) (a) When the general assembly is in recess for more than three days or is not in session, in addition to the base compensation specified in subsection (1) of this section, the following members of the general assembly shall be entitled to the further sum of ninety-nine dollars per day through December 31, 2026, and, on OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, the amount set by the commission for necessary attendance at meetings or functions or to legislative matters as follows:
- (6) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "commission" means the independent state elected official pay commission created in section 24-9-106 (2).
- **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-9-101, **amend** (1)(a)(II)(B), (1)(b)(II)(B), (1)(b)(III), (1)(b)(IV), (1)(c), (1)(d)(II)(B), (1)(e)(II)(B), (1)(f)(II)(B), and (4); and **add** (1)(a)(II)(C), (1)(a)(III), (1)(b)(II)(C), (1)(b)(V), (1)(d)(II)(C), (1)(d)(III), (1)(e)(II)(C), (1)(e)(III), (1)(f)(III), and (6) as follows:
- **24-9-101.** Salaries of elected state officials definition repeal. (1) The following state officials shall receive annual salaries and allowances, payable monthly, as follows:
  - (a) Governor:
- (II) (B) Before January 1, 2027, each subsequent salary paid under this paragraph (a) Subsection (1)(a) must be adjusted on a quadrennial basis so that, beginning with the first day of each four-year gubernatorial term, and applying to each year of that term, the governor's annual salary is an amount equal to sixty-six percent of the total annual salary earned by the chief justice of the supreme court on the first day of the governor's term.
  - (C) This subsection (1)(a)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.
- (III) On or after January 1,2027, the salary payable to the governor for each year of the four-year term being served is in the amount set by the commission.

- (b) Lieutenant governor:
- (II) (B) Before January 1, 2027, each subsequent salary paid under this paragraph (b) SUBSECTION (1)(b) must be adjusted on a quadrennial basis so that, beginning with the first day of each four-year term, and applying to each year of that term, the lieutenant governor's annual salary is an amount equal to fifty-eight percent of the total annual salary earned by the judges of the county court in Class B counties on the first day of the lieutenant governor's term.
  - (C) This subsection (1)(b)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.
- (III) Notwithstanding any provision of subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b) to the contrary, if the lieutenant governor is concurrently serving as the head of a principal department and the salary for the head of that principal department is greater than that to which the lieutenant governor is entitled under this paragraph (b) SUBSECTION (1)(b), the lieutenant governor shall also be paid that portion of the salary for the head of the principal department that, when added to the amount of the salary paid under this paragraph (b) SUBSECTION (1)(b), equals the amount paid to the head of that principal department.
- (IV) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(b)(II) of this section ANY PROVISION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b) TO THE CONTRARY, if the lieutenant governor is concurrently serving as the director of the office of saving people money on healthcare within the office of the governor and the salary for the director of the office of saving people money on healthcare is greater than the amount to which the lieutenant governor is entitled under this subsection (1)(b), the lieutenant governor shall also be paid that portion of the salary for the director of the office of saving people money on healthcare that, when added to the amount of the salary paid under this subsection (1)(b), equals the amount paid to the director of the office of saving people money on healthcare.
- (V) On or after January 1, 2027, the salary payable to the lieutenant governor for each year of the four-year term being served is in the amount set by the commission.
- (c) President of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, minority leader of the senate, or minority leader of the house of representatives, while for any reason acting as governor:
  - (I) Before January 1, 2027, the sum of twenty dollars per day as expenses; and
- (II) On or after January 1, 2027, the amount set by the commission as expenses.
  - (d) Attorney general:
- (II) (B) Before January 1, 2027, each subsequent salary paid under this paragraph (d) SUBSECTION (1)(d) must be adjusted on a quadrennial basis so that, beginning with the first day of each four-year term, and applying to each year of that term, the attorney general's annual salary is an amount equal to sixty percent of the

total annual salary earned by the chief judge of the court of appeals on the first day of the attorney general's term.

- (C) This subsection (1)(d)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.
- (III) ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, THE SALARY PAYABLE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR EACH YEAR OF THE FOUR-YEAR TERM BEING SERVED IS IN THE AMOUNT SET BY THE COMMISSION.
  - (e) Secretary of state:
- (II) (B) Before January 1, 2027, each subsequent salary paid under this paragraph (c) Subsection (1)(e) must be adjusted on a quadrennial basis so that, beginning with the first day of each four-year term, and applying to each year of that term, the secretary of state's annual salary is an amount equal to fifty-eight percent of the total annual salary earned by the judges of the county court in Class B counties on the first day of the secretary of state's term.
  - (C) This subsection (1)(e)(II) is repealed, effective January 1, 2028.
- (III) ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, THE SALARY PAYABLE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EACH YEAR OF THE FOUR-YEAR TERM BEING SERVED IS IN THE AMOUNT SET BY THE COMMISSION.
  - (f) State treasurer:
- (II) (B) Before January 1, 2027, each subsequent salary paid under this paragraph (f) Subsection (1)(f) must be adjusted on a quadrennial basis so that, beginning with the first day of each four-year term, and applying to each year of that term, the state treasurer's annual salary is an amount equal to fifty-eight percent of the total annual salary earned by the judges of the county court in Class B counties on the first day of the state treasurer's term.
  - (C) This subsection (1)(f)(II) is repealed, effective July 1, 2028.
- (III) On or after January 1, 2027, the salary payable to the state treasurer for each year of the four-year term being served is in the amount set by the commission.
- (4) Nothing in this section authorizes the salary of any elected state official to be modified while he or she is serving his or her DURING THE ELECTED STATE OFFICIAL'S official term.
- (6) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "commission" means the independent state elected official pay commission created in section 24-9-106 (2).
- **SECTION 6.** Act subject to petition effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an

item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 4, 2024