

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1056

By: Claunch

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to Section 21 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma; abolishing the Board on Legislative Compensation; modifying method of determining the compensation of members of the Legislature; allowing legislators to elect not to receive the general benefits allowance; making certain legislative compensation increase void; implementing certain general benefits allowance increase; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE
2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or rejection, as and in the manner provided by law, the following proposed amendment to Section 21 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma to read as follows:

Section 21. A. The Legislature shall enact laws to prohibit members of the Legislature from engaging in activities or having interests which conflict with the proper discharge of their duties and responsibilities. ~~The Board on Legislative Compensation is hereby created. Said Board shall be composed of five members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The members appointed by the Governor shall be from religious organizations, communications media, nonstate-supported educational institutions, labor~~

~~organizations, and retail business; the members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be from agricultural and civic organizations; and the members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be from manufacturing and from professional fields not otherwise specified. No member of the Legislature may be appointed to or serve on the Board. In addition to the members above provided for, the Chairman of the Tax Commission and the Director of State Finance shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of said Board. The Chairman of said Board shall be designated by the Governor. Members of the Legislature shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Board on Legislative Compensation. Said Board shall each two years review the compensation paid to the members of the Legislature and shall be empowered to change such compensation; such change to become effective on the fifteenth day following the succeeding general election. The members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to receive necessary travel and subsistence expense as provided by law for other state officers.~~

B. Base compensation of members of the Legislature shall be the base compensation in effect on January 1, 1989, not including the compensation authorized by the Board on Legislative Compensation for the general benefits allowance allowed all state employees. Legislative compensation shall be annually adjusted upward or downward as of January 1 of each year based on the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the previous federal fiscal year ending September 30. The chief administrative officer of the Office of State Finance or of a successor agency shall determine if there is a percentage change by December 1 and, if there is a percentage change, shall adjust the base compensation of members of the Legislature upward or downward accordingly. In addition to base compensation, legislators shall receive a general benefits allowance in the manner and amount

provided by law for state employees. Legislators may elect not to receive the general benefits allowance.

C. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the compensation increase for state legislators scheduled to take effect fifteen (15) days after the 1998 General Election mandated by the Board on Legislative Compensation on October 21, 1997, is hereby declared void. The general benefits allowance increase approved by the Board on October 21, 1997, shall be implemented.

SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this resolution shall be in the following form:

BALLOT TITLE

Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 21 of Article 5. It does away with the Board on Legislative Compensation. It voids the salary increase approved by the Board on October 21, 1997. It does not void the allowance increase approved by the Board. It changes the way compensation of members of the Legislature is determined. It provides that legislative salaries be adjusted yearly. The adjustment would be based on any change in a consumer price index. Member salaries could go up or down. Members would also receive a general benefits allowance. It would be equal in amount to that received by state employees. It allows members to elect not to receive the allowance.

SHALL THIS AMENDMENT BE APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE?

 / YES, FOR THE AMENDMENT

 / NO, AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

SECTION 3. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, immediately after the passage of this resolution, shall prepare and file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in

SECTION 2 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney General.

46-2-8067

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