

SCR22, As Adopted by Senate, November 8, 2007

Substitute for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22

A concurrent resolution to request the State Officers Compensation Commission to recommend a 5 percent reduction in salaries of the members of the Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Justices of the Supreme Court the next time the commission meets and to urge the commission to ensure that none of its future recommendations exceed the change in the Consumer Price Index or the average increase in state employee pay.

Whereas, Our state's continuing economic struggles emphasize the need to make sacrifices for our future economic and fiscal health. All avenues to encourage that fiscal policies and decisions reflect this need for prudence must be pursued; and

Whereas, Article IV, Section 12 of the State Constitution of 1963 provides for the State Officers Compensation Commission. This commission determines the salaries and expense allowances of members of the Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Justices of the Supreme Court. Pursuant to state statutes amended to conform to 2002 changes in the constitutional provisions regarding the commission, the State Officers Compensation Commission will next meet in 2009; and

Whereas, It is important for all possible mechanisms to be put in place to avoid unnecessary spending. Reducing the salaries of the state's highest elected officers and restraining spending increases can help safeguard the public's interests at an important time in our state's history. Establishing a ceiling for the recommendations that the State Officers Compensation Commission can make, by making sure future recommendations cannot exceed changes in the Consumer Price Index or the average increase in state employee pay, is an appropriate and long-overdue step to take. These moves can enable other reforms in policy to take root; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we request the State Officers Compensation Commission to recommend a 5 percent reduction in salaries of the members of the Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Justices of the Supreme Court the next time the commission meets and urge the commission to ensure that none of its future recommendations exceed the change in the Consumer Price Index or the average increase in state employee pay; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the State Officers Compensation Commission.