

R E P O R T  
OF THE  
COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION, EXPENSES, AND SALARIES  
OF ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Submitted to the Members of the  
First Session of the Sixty-Eighth General Assembly  
Meeting in the Year 1979

February, 1979

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION, EXPENSES, AND  
SALARIES OF ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

February 1, 1979

The Commission on Compensation, Expenses, and Salaries of Elected State Officials was established by the General Assembly in 1972. It consists of fifteen members, five appointed by the Governor, five appointed by the President of the Senate, and five appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Chapter 2A of the Code of Iowa (1979) charges the Commission with a review of the compensation and expenses paid to members of the General Assembly and salaries paid to other elective state officials and statutory judicial officers. The Commission is directed to review compensation, expenses, and salaries paid for comparable positions in other states, the federal government, and private enterprise and to recommend compensation and expense levels for members of the General Assembly and salary levels for elective executive officials and judges.

The members of the Commission on Compensation, Expenses, and Salaries of Elected State Officials are:

Mr. Tom Miller, Cherokee, Chairperson  
Ms. Anna Smith, Clarinda, Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Donald Arnold, Des Moines  
Mr. Donald Briggs, West Des Moines  
Mr. Hugh D. Clark, Des Moines  
Mr. E. Howard Hill, Minburn  
Mr. Gordon James, Des Moines  
Mr. Harold C. McCormick, Manchester  
Mr. J. Duane Mortensen, Dubuque  
Mr. John Murray, Fort Dodge  
Mr. Bill H. Myers, Davenport  
Mr. Robert Newberg, West Des Moines  
Mr. Lloyd Schmeiser, Burlington  
Mr. James Van Werden, Adel  
Mr. James Wirtz, Emmetsburg

The Commission held three meetings during the fall and winter months during which they reviewed the current salaries of the officials, studied President Carter's Anti-Inflation Program, reviewed salary levels of similar positions in other states, and heard from the persons whose salaries were being reviewed or their representatives.

Those who appeared before the Commission were:

Administrative Assistant to the Governor Wythe Willey  
Deputy Secretary of State Herman Schweiker  
Auditor of State Lloyd Smith

Treasurer of State Maurice Baringer  
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Thatcher Johnson  
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court W. Ward Reynoldson  
Justice of the Supreme Court Harvey Uhlenhopp  
Judge Newt Draheim, Representing the District Court Judge's  
Association  
Senator C. W. (Bill) Hutchins  
Representative Roger Halvorson  
Representative Robert Anderson

Correspondence was received from Secretary of State Melvin Synhorst and Attorney General Tom Miller.

In general, most of the persons who appeared before the Commission mentioned the increases in the cost of living over the past few years which tend to erode salaries.

The Commission discussed the adverse publicity which results when salary increases for public officials are postponed for several years. It was noted that even though the eventual increases are substantial, when these increases are computed on an annual basis, they are no greater than those granted to other governmental employees or employees in the private sector. Members of the Commission noted that under section 2A.4 of the Code of Iowa (1979) they are required to make salary recommendations not later than February first of each odd-numbered year. Members of the Commission believe that biennial recommendations during an inflationary period necessitate that their recommendations reflect at least a two-year lag in salaries for the elected state officials and judges and an additional year and a half lag for members of the general assembly.

The Commission heard testimony from the judges and members of the general assembly that the mileage allowance of 15 cents per mile does not meet the costs of operating an automobile. Information from the American Automobile Association based on costs for the third quarter of 1978 indicates that it cost 18 3/4 cents per mile to operate an automobile. Commission members and persons testifying quoted other sources listing even higher costs for operating automobile.

The judges described the inadequacy of their twenty-two dollar per day limit on expenses when they are required to travel to hold court. They asked that the limit on expenses contained in section 605.2 of the Code either be removed or raised to a more realistic amount.

After studying information presented to them, the Commission on Compensation, Expenses, and Salaries of Elected State Officials makes the following recommendations:

1. That section 2A.4 of the Code be amended to allow the Commission to make annual recommendations so that the recommended increases will not be so large that they appear out of line with increases granted public employees and employees in the private sector.

2. That the mileage allowance be increased from 15 cents per mile to 20 cents per mile to more nearly reflect the actual cost of operating an automobile.

3. That the salaries and expenses of elected state officials, members of the General Assembly, and judges be increased for each of the next two years, pursuant to the anti-inflation guidelines issued by President Carter, according to the following schedule:

Elected State Officials

<u>Office</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>7% Increase July 1, 1979</u>	<u>7% Increase July 1, 1980</u>
Governor	\$55,000	\$58,850	\$62,970
Lieutenant Governor	(Listed with members of the General Assembly)		
Secretary of State	30,000	32,100	34,347
Auditor of State	30,000	32,100	34,347
Treasurer of State	30,000	32,100	34,347
Secretary of Agriculture	30,000	32,100	34,347
Attorney General	40,000	42,800	45,796

Expenses

Governor (Expense of Office)	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,420	\$ 6,869
Governor-Elect (Expense Fund)	10,000	10,700	11,449

Judicial Branch

	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>7% Increase July 1, 1979</u>	<u>7% Increase July 1, 1980</u>
Supreme Court			
Chief Justice	\$50,000	\$53,150	\$56,521
Justices	45,000	48,150	51,521
Appeals Court			
Chief Judge	43,500	46,475	49,658
Judge	42,500	45,475	48,658
District Court			
Chief Judge	42,000	44,800	47,796
Judge	40,000	42,800	45,796
Associate Judge	33,000	35,310	37,782

Full-time Magistrate	33,000	35,310	37,782
Part-time Magistrate	8,750	9,363	10,018

Members of the General Assembly  
and Lieutenant Governor

<u>Office</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>7% Increase Jan. 12, 1981</u>	<u>7% Increase Jan. 11, 1982</u>
Lt. Governor	\$18,000	\$18,840	\$19,739
Speaker	18,000	18,840	19,739
Leaders	14,000	14,840	15,739
Members	12,000	12,840	13,739

Interim Compensation

Lt. Governor	\$60/day	\$64.20/day	\$68.70/day
Speaker	60/day	64.20/day	68.70/day
Leaders	40/day	42.80/day	45.80/day
Members	40/day	42.80/day	45.80/day

Expenses

\$30/day*	\$32.10	\$34.25
-----------	---------	---------

\*Seven days/week for 120 days in odd-numbered years and 100 days in even-numbered years.

4. That the Commission be allowed to review its recommendations for the second year so that they reflect the increases in the consumer price index.

5. That section 605.2 of the Code be amended by striking the twenty-two dollar per day limit on expenses paid for judges who must travel to hold court and granting the Supreme Court the authority to adopt rules limiting the amount per day a judge may spend when the judge travels.

Mr. Lloyd Schmeiser asked to be recorded as voting in the negative on the portion of Recommendation 3 relating to the salary increases for the elected state officials and the judges.