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## DIGEST

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HB 249 Original

2026 Regular Session

Green

**Abstract:** Requires the legislature to provide by law for and adequately fund an independent compensation commission to examine, evaluate, and establish the salary and other compensation for elected officials whose salary or other compensation is established pursuant to statute; provides that any increase established by the commission shall become effective at the beginning of the subsequent term of office in that class of offices; and requires the legislative auditor to adjust the salary and compensation in accordance with the CPI each term.

Proposed constitutional amendment establishes a compensation commission as an independent office within the office of the legislative auditor and requires the legislative auditor to provide staff support to the commission. Requires the legislature to make adequate annual appropriations for the compensation commission to fulfill its duties efficiently and effectively. Provides that the commission is composed as provided by law of not more than 15 members who serve one 10-year term, after which the commission ceases to exist. Requires the commission to examine, evaluate, and establish the salary and other compensation for each elected official whose salary or other compensation is established pursuant to present law as of Jan. 1, 2026.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires the commission to complete a comprehensive review and evaluation of the salary and other compensation for each office or class of offices within its purview at least once.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires the commission to publish its salary and compensation amount for an office no later than Jan. 15th of the last full calendar year of the term of office for that office. Provides that the change in salary and compensation for an office shall become effective at the beginning of the subsequent term of office for that office. Makes specific provisions for classes of offices with staggered terms. Further requires the legislative auditor, when there has been an increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. city average (CPI-U) during the term of an elected office within its purview, to adjust the salary and other compensation of each office or class of offices in accordance with the growth rate of the CPI-U, not seasonally adjusted, as prepared by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the preceding calendar years of the respective term of office, rounding the adjusted salary and other compensation to the nearest whole dollar.

Present constitution provides that any increase in salary of any member of the legislature shall not become effective until the commencement of the subsequent term for that office following the adoption or enactment of the increase and provides that an increase in the salary of a statewide

elected official shall not become effective until the commencement of the subsequent term for that office following the adoption or enactment of the increase. Further provides that any increase in salary provided by law for the Public Service Commission shall not become effective for a member of the commission until the commencement of the term of office for the member of the commission following the enactment of the increase.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides instead that the increase for legislators and statewide elected officials shall not become effective until the commencement of the subsequent term for those offices following the increase as provided in the provisions of the proposed constitutional amendment. Proposed constitutional amendment provides the increase shall not become effective for members of the public service commission until the commencement of the term of office for a member of the commission following the establishment of the change in salary and other compensation.

Present constitution provides that the compensation of an elected official shall not be decreased during the term office. Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 3, 2026.

(Amends Const. Art. III, §4(G) and Art. IV, §§4 and 21(F); Adds Const. Art. X, §23.1)