

2015-16 NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE BUDGET
PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
ARTICLE VII LEGISLATION
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

- 1% general salary increase, effective April 1, 2018.

This section would also exclude former unionized employees who already received the three percent general salary increase on April 1, 2009 and/or the four percent general salary increase on April 1, 2010 - and whose current salaries reflect the effect of these increases - from receiving the increases under this bill. Finally, this section would provide salary increases to certain State employees in the State University and certain employees of the contract colleges at Cornell and Alfred.

Sections 4 through 7 would specify the use of appropriations, protect individuals participating in a special annuity program, provide for the effective date of raises, continue the ability of the Director of the New York State Division of the Budget (Budget Director) to withhold any increases, and require that the Budget Director notify the New York State Comptroller before any amounts in this bill are paid.

Section 8 would provide that this bill would take effect immediately, and shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect on and after April 1, 2015.

Budget Implications:

This bill would increase M/C compensation over a period of four years, the cost of which would be paid for within existing Agency budgets. Each 1% general salary increase for M/C employees costs \$10.5M (All Funds, excluding fringe benefits).

Effective Date:

This bill would take effect immediately, and shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect on and after April 1, 2015.

Part I – Create a salary commission to make recommendations on executive and legislative compensation



Purpose:

This bill would create a salary commission that would convene every four years, commencing on June 1, 2015, to examine, evaluate and make recommendations regarding compensation for the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, state officers covered by section 169 of executive law, and members of the legislature.

Summary of Provisions and Statement in Support:

Section 1 of this bill creates a salary commission that will examine pay levels and other benefits, including per diems and allowances, for legislators, statewide elected officers

and agency heads referred to in section 169 of the executive law. The commission will take into account factors not limited to the economic climate and inflation.

If the commission determines that legislative pay should be adjusted, the adjustment will consist of a two-tier level of pay, as follows: 1) a salary for members who agree to not receive "income from outside sources" for the upcoming legislative session; and, 2) a salary set lower than tier one for members who elect to receive income from outside sources for the upcoming legislative session. If legislators elect the second tier, their outside earnings may be capped and they must disclose, without any limitation, the source of outside income. They will also be barred from representing any client in any matters before the State or State agency. Decisions on which tier the legislator will elect to receive compensation will be made prior to entering the term of office beginning with the legislative session in January 2017.

Section 2 of this bill establishes that the commission will be comprised of three members, as follows: one appointed by the Governor, who will serve as chair of the commission; one by the Temporary President of the Senate; and one by the Speaker of the Assembly.

The commission will hold at least four public hearings, at different sites across the state, to gather input from citizens. The commission will publish its findings within 150 days after its establishment and must be unanimously voted on by the commission in order to draft legislation to send to the governor and legislature for consideration.

Executive and legislative compensation has not been changed in decades. This legislation, if enacted, would provide for a bipartisan, public examination of the issue of pay raises that would be tied, if authorized, to meaningful reforms.

Budget Implications:

Enactment of this bill is necessary to implement the 2015-16. Legislative pay raises, should they be authorized, would not be effective until calendar year beginning January, 2017. Other raises in salary, if so authorized, would not be effective until legislation was subsequently passed and enacted.

Effective Date:

This bill would take effect April 1, 2015..

Part J - Establish amnesty periods in the New York State Health Insurance Program

Purpose:

This bill would authorize the President of the Civil Service Commission to establish amnesty periods in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP).