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# Lawyers Group Endorses Raise for State Lawmakers

Joel Stashenko, New York Law Journal

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The New York State Trial Lawyers Association said it believes state legislators deserve a pay raise.

The group filed a brief statement with the Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation on Monday, noting that since the last raise for legislators in 1999, prices for virtually everything have risen about 42 percent.

"Our hard-working legislators deserve a raise as well," the association's president, Ed Gersowitz, said in a statement.

The commission and a predecessor panel have twice approved pay increases for judges in New York (NYLJ, [Aug. 29, 2011](#), and [Dec. 28, 2015](#)), but the issue of increasing salaries of state legislators has proven to be more controversial. Critics, including some legislators themselves, have argued that well-documented cases of corruption in Albany show that lawmakers do not deserve raises.

The commission is scheduled to meet on Thursday at 1 p.m. at the New York City Bar Association, 42 W. 44th St.

Facing a Nov. 15 deadline to make its formal recommendations, attention has focused on Thursday's meeting as a make-or-break one for those looking for definitive word on pay increases, which also would apply to commissioners and the heads of state agencies who have seen no pay raise in 17 years.

The commission is composed of representatives appointed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, legislative leaders and the courts. Its recommendations automatically take effect unless expressly countermanded by the governor and Legislature.

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