

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND PROVIDING THAT INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS MAY DONATE ALL OR A PORTION OF THEIR COMPENSATION TO TAXPAYERS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO BY DONATING SUCH COMPENSATION TO THE TAX RELIEF FUND.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Section 23, Article III of the Constitution of the State of Idaho provides that the Legislature shall have no authority to establish the rate of its compensation and expense by law; and

WHEREAS, Section 23, Article III of the Constitution of the State of Idaho establishes the Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation to establish the rate of compensation and expenses for services to be rendered by members of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2024, the Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation approved a motion to set the rate of compensation for services to be rendered by the members of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature and the rate of expenses to be incurred in rendering those services for the period commencing December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the committee's motion provided that each member of the Legislature shall be paid a base salary of \$25,000 per year for the period from December 1, 2024, through November 30, 2026, and further provided for the additional compensation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives to be increased by \$500 per year; and

WHEREAS, the previous base salary for legislative members during the period December 1, 2023, through November 20, 2024, was \$19,913; and

WHEREAS, the committee's motion has the effect of increasing the base salary for legislative members by \$4,432 or 26%; and

WHEREAS, the salaries of legislative members have increased by only 27% since 2005; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, the salaries of judges have increased by 46%, the salaries of constitutional officers have increased by 55%, the salary of the lieutenant governor has increased by 98%, and the salary of the average state employee has increased by 74%; and

WHEREAS, the committee's motion is a step toward bringing legislator salaries more in line with others in Idaho state government; and

WHEREAS, taking into account the committee's motion, the Idaho Legislature ranks 12th out of 25 part-time legislatures in compensation, with an annual salary \$6,000 below the average; and

WHEREAS, when adjusted for inflation, the Legislature's salary had decreased by 24% over the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, to have the same purchasing power as a legislator's salary in 2005, the salary in 2025 would need to be \$26,637; and

1 WHEREAS, unlike legislators in other states, Idaho's legislators do not
2 receive additional compensation for attending interim meetings, special
3 sessions, or organizational sessions; and

4 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has the second-fewest number of support
5 staff per legislator of any western state, necessitating that legislators do
6 more work; and

7 WHEREAS, the motion, which was unanimously passed by the Citizens' Com-
8 mittee on Legislative Compensation, will help bridge the gap between leg-
9 islative compensation and compensation for other state employees; and

10 WHEREAS, some legislators have spoken out against the action taken by
11 the Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation and feel that the in-
12 creased compensation for legislative members is too much; and

13 WHEREAS, although the Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation
14 is authorized by the Constitution to establish the rate of compensation and
15 expenses for services to be rendered by members of the Legislature, indi-
16 vidual legislative members may donate all or a portion of their compensation
17 back to taxpayers of the State of Idaho by donating such compensation to the
18 Tax Relief Fund established in section 57-811, Idaho Code.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
20 sion of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
21 the Senate concurring therein, that legislators who believe themselves to be
22 overcompensated may donate all or a portion of their legislative compensa-
23 tion to the Tax Relief Fund established in section 57-811, Idaho Code.