

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2575

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/12/2014	6161	Introduction and first reading Referred to State and Local Government
03/24/2014	6758a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Rules and Administration
04/24/2014		Comm report: To pass as amended Second reading

A bill for an act
relating to state government; establishing a legislative salary council; modifying
a proposed constitutional amendment to stop lawmakers from setting their own
pay; amending Laws 2013, chapter 124, sections 1; 2; proposing coding for new
law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 15A.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[15A.0825] LEGISLATIVE SALARY COUNCIL.**

Subdivision 1. **Membership.** (a) The Legislative Salary Council consists of the
following members:

(1) one person, who is not a judge, from each congressional district, appointed by
the chief justice of the Supreme Court; and

(2) one person from each congressional district, appointed by the governor.

(b) If Minnesota has an odd number of congressional districts, the governor and the
chief justice must each appoint an at-large member, in addition to a member from each
congressional district.

(c) One-half of the members appointed by the governor and one-half of the members
appointed by the chief justice must belong to the political party that has the most members
in the legislature. One-half of the members appointed by the governor and one-half of
the members appointed by the chief justice must belong to the political party that has the
second most members in the legislature.

(d) None of the members of the council may be:

(1) a current or former legislator, or the spouse or former spouse of a current or
former legislator;

(2) a current or former lobbyist registered under Minnesota law, or a current or
former spouse of a current or former lobbyist registered under Minnesota law; or

2.1 (3) a current or former employee of the legislature, or a current or former spouse of a
2.2 current or former employee of the legislature.

2.3 Subd. 2. **Initial appointment; convening authority; first meeting.** Appointing
2.4 authorities must make their initial appointments by November 30, 2016. The governor
2.5 shall designate one member to convene and chair the first meeting of the council. The first
2.6 meeting must be before January 15, 2017. At its first meeting, the council must elect a
2.7 chair from among its members. Members that reside in an even-numbered congressional
2.8 district shall serve a first term ending January 15, 2019. Members residing in an
2.9 odd-numbered congressional district will serve a first term that ends January 15, 2021.

2.10 Subd. 3. **Terms.** (a) Except for initial terms, a term is four years, or until new
2.11 appointments are made after congressional redistricting as provided in subdivision 4.
2.12 Members may serve no more than two full terms or portions of two consecutive terms.

2.13 (b) If a member ceases to reside in the congressional district that the member
2.14 resided in at the time of appointment as a result of moving or redistricting, the appointing
2.15 authority who appointed the member must appoint a replacement who resides in the
2.16 congressional district to serve the unexpired term.

2.17 Subd. 4. **Appointments following redistricting.** Appointing authorities shall make
2.18 appointments within three months after the legislature adopts a congressional redistricting
2.19 plan.

2.20 Subd. 5. **Removal; vacancies.** Members may be removed only for cause, after
2.21 notice and a hearing, for missing three consecutive meetings, or as a result of redistricting.
2.22 The chair of the council or a designee shall inform the appointing authority of a member
2.23 missing three consecutive meetings. After the second consecutive missed meeting and
2.24 before the next meeting, the chair or a designee shall notify the member in writing that
2.25 the member may be removed for missing the next meeting. In the case of a vacancy
2.26 on the board, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the
2.27 remainder of the unexpired term.

2.28 Subd. 6. **Compensation.** Members shall be compensated under section 15.059,
2.29 subdivision 3.

2.30 Subd. 7. **Duties.** By March 31 of each odd-numbered year, the council must prescribe
2.31 salaries for legislators to take effect July 1 of that year. In setting salaries, the council must
2.32 take into account any other legislative compensation provided to the legislators by the
2.33 state of Minnesota. The council must submit a report by March 31 of each odd-numbered
2.34 year with the prescribed salaries to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the
2.35 senate and the house of representatives, the chairs of the committees in the senate and the
2.36 house of representatives with jurisdiction over the legislature's budget, and the chairs of

the committees in the senate and house of representatives with jurisdiction over finance.

The report must describe the council's rationale for selecting the prescribed salaries.

Subd. 8. **Chair.** The commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

Subd. 9. **Staffing.** The Legislative Coordinating Commission shall provide administrative and support services for the council.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective upon adoption of the constitutional amendment proposed under Laws 2013, chapter 124.

Sec. 2. Laws 2013, chapter 124, section 1, is amended to read:

Section 1. **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.**

An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, article IV, section 9, will read:

Sec. 9. The salary of senators and representatives shall be prescribed by a council consisting of the following members: one person who is not a judge from each congressional district appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, and one member from each congressional district appointed by the governor. If Minnesota has an odd number of congressional districts, the governor and the chief justice must each appoint an at-large member in addition to a member from each congressional district. One-half of the members appointed by the governor and one-half of the members appointed by the chief justice must belong to the political party that has the most members in the legislature. One-half of the members appointed by the governor and one-half of the members appointed by the chief justice must belong to the political party that has the second-most members in the legislature. None of the members of the council may be current or former legislators, or the spouse or former spouse of a current or former legislator. None of the members of the council may be current or former lobbyists registered under Minnesota law, or a current or former spouse of a current or former lobbyist registered under Minnesota law. None of the members of the council may be a current or former employee of the legislature, or a current or former spouse of a current or former employee of the legislature. Membership terms, removal, and compensation of members shall be as provided by law. The council must prescribe salaries by March 31 of each odd-numbered year, taking into account any other legislative compensation provided to legislators by the state of Minnesota, with any changes in salary to take effect on July 1 of that year.

Sec. 3. Laws 2013, chapter 124, section 2, is amended to read:

Sec. 2. **SCHEDULE AND QUESTION.**

4.1 (a) The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2016 general
4.2 election. The question submitted must be:

4.3 "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to remove state legislators' ability
4.4 to set their own salaries, and instead establish an independent, citizens-only council to
4.5 prescribe salaries for state legislators?

4.6 Yes

4.7 No"

4.8 (b) The title required under Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.15, subdivision 1, for
4.9 the question submitted to the people under paragraph (a) shall be: "Stop Lawmakers
4.10 From Setting Their Own Pay."