

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1059

Chairperson: Senator John Wightman

Committee: Executive Board

Date of Hearing: February 07, 2012

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB1059 is a companion bill to LR377CA.

LB1059 creates a compensation commission to review and recommend salary, and actual travel and per diem expenditures for Constitutional officers and members of the Legislature. The Commission shall be created January 31, 2013.

There shall be six (6) members appointed, two (2) from each Legislative Caucus for four (4) year staggered terms. Commission members shall not receive a salary, other than travel and actual expenses.

Each Legislative Caucus shall select two (2) individuals from two (2) separate political affiliations who must be approved by the full Legislature. Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Chair shall not exercise voting rights. Commission shall abide by Nebraska Open Meetings and Open Records laws. Commission members found to be in violation of this Act may be removed by the Legislature.

To become eligible for membership on the Commission, individual must be a Nebraska resident who is a registered voter who has not changed political affiliations within one year, has not filed with the Clerk of the Legislature as a registered lobbyist, is not an elected public officeholder or political party officeholder, is not a relative of an officeholder or an employee of the University of Nebraska. Commission members may not campaign for office, participate or contribute to campaigns or campaign or hold a Constitutional or Legislative office for two (2) years following service on the Commission. Commission members shall file reports with the Office of Accountability and Disclosure, as directed by 49-1493 and 49-1499.03.

Commission shall review any relevant studies or material and issue a report of findings by October 1 of odd-numbered years. Commission shall hold three (3) statewide hearings on preliminary findings. Commission shall not make recommendations which result in reductions, but may make neutral or no-increase recommendations. Commission shall not

make recommendations with respect to benefits. Commission shall present final recommendations, in the form of a Legislative Bill to Legislature within the first 10 days of even-numbered sessions.

Commission may prepare technical amendments for introduction, but no substantive amendments to alter or sever a bill may be introduced. Commission members who object to findings may prepare objections in writing for distribution to the Legislature. Executive Committee shall hold public hearings. Legislature shall vote to approve or deny recommendations of Commission, but shall not consider amendments that are not technical in nature.

State Officers Compensation Fund is created. The Legislature shall appropriate funds for actual expenditures of Commisisoners, maintenance of staff or supplies by the Legislative Research Office and the finance of findings recommended by the Commission and approved by the Legislature.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bill Avery