



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002
Committee Statement
LR 16CA

Hearing Date: February 8, 2001
Committee On: Executive Board

Introducer(s): (Beutler)

Title: Create an Ethics and Compensation Review Commission for the Legislature

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 9 | Yes | Senators Coordsen, Beutler, Byars, Chambers, Cudaback, Engel, Jones, Kristensen, and Suttle |
| 0 | No | |
| 0 | Present, not voting | |
| 0 | Absent | |
-

Proponents:
Senator Chris Beutler

Representing:
Introducer

Opponents:
Jack Gould

Representing:
Common Cause

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LR 16CA proposes to amend Article III, sections 7 and 19, and adds a new section 31 to Article III. The new section would create the Ethics and Compensation Review Commission. Members of the Commission would be appointed by the Governor.

The Commission would first prepare and present to the Legislature, prior to November, 2003, a legislative code of ethics which shall be adopted by the Legislature as part of its permanent rules. Second, after the Ethics and Compensation Review Commission has presented a code of ethics to the Legislature and it has been adopted as part of the Legislature's permanent rules, the Commission shall review compensation for members of the Legislature and submit a report recommending any adjustment to compensation.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment provides that the Ethics and Review Commission shall develop and submit to the Legislature a recommended legislative code of ethics, and review and recommend changes to the level of compensation for members of the Legislature. The Legislature may adopt or reject the recommended code of ethics, but must maintain a code of ethics in some form in its permanent rules. If the recommended code of ethics is not adopted, the Commission cannot make recommendations regarding compensation. The Legislature may modify the code of ethics three years after its initial adoption. Every fourth year after the initial submission of the recommended code of ethics, the Commission shall review and submit recommendations for changes.

If the recommended code of ethics has been adopted as part of the Legislature's permanent rules, the Commission shall review compensation for members of the legislature and submit a report recommending any adjustments to such compensation. Recommended compensation adjustments may be approved or disapproved by a legislative bill. The Commission shall submit a report recommending adjustments every four years.

Senator George Coordsen, Chairperson