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LB 683

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Schimek, I have a question or two I'd like to ask.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR RAIKES: You mentioned that there was a four-year time that had to elapse before this could be addressed again. Would you explain that?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Senator Raikes. The...we cannot raise salaries during a term of office, and the term of office does not end, of course, until the next elected Governor or Lieutenant Governor, whomever takes office.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. When was the last time that these salaries were increased, or changed? I assume they were increased.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Four years ago.

SENATOR RAIKES: And before that?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, my recollection is--I'm trying to think back. I should say, right up front for everybody in here who doesn't know, or doesn't remember, that almost every time that I can ever think of, the salary bill for constitutional officers is vetoed by the Governor, almost without exception. And so, there's been an attempt every four years to change the salary, but one year, the salary bill got to the Governor so late the Governor didn't...vetoed it too late for the Legislature to actually override. Generally what the Legislature does is override, and generally, we do this every four years, to the best of my recollection.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you. Another question pertains to...I understand these are constitutional officers, but just for my information, nonconstitutional officers, for example, the tax commissioner. How is that salary determined?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I believe by the Governor, but I'm not certain about that. But we don't do that.