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H.B. 695
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Becker and Romanchuk

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SUMMARY

- Sets the baseline compensation for a member of the General Assembly equal to the statewide median household income and adjusts increased leadership salaries accordingly.
- Modifies committee supplement amounts by making them a percentage of statewide median household income.
- Designates the bill as the “Average Wage Fully Uniform Law (AWFUL).”

DETAILED ANALYSIS

General Assembly compensation

Members of the General Assembly receive a “baseline” compensation amount – \$65,528 for calendar year 2020 – under the current pay structure; members in leadership positions receive more. The bill, called the “Average Wage Fully Uniform Law (AWFUL),” sets the baseline compensation amount equal to the statewide median household income¹ (currently \$56,111) and maintains the increased amounts leadership positions receive.² For instance, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate receive 156% of the baseline pay under the current pay structure, so they receive 156% of the median household income under the bill. The tables below outline the percentage of the median household income each position receives.

¹ The bill uses [U.S. Census Bureau Table B19013](#), or its successor. The figure provided in that table on the last day of December is used to calculate compensation amounts and supplement amounts for the following calendar year.

² R.C. 101.27(A)(1) and (3).

Table 1. Senate	
Position	Salary under AWFUL (as % of median household income)
President	156%
President Pro Tempore	142%
Minority Leader	142%
Assistant President Pro Tempore	134%
Assistant Minority Leader	130%
Majority Whip	126%
Minority Whip	117%
Assistant Minority Whip	105%
Member	100%

Table 2. House	
Position	Salary under AWFUL (as % of median household income)
Speaker	156%
Speaker Pro Tempore	142%
Minority Leader	142%
Majority Floor Leader	134%
Assistant Minority Leader	130%
Assistant Majority Floor Leader	126%
Majority Whip	117%
Minority Whip	117%
Assistant Majority Whip	109%
Assistant Minority Whip	105%
Member	100%

The bill also modifies committee supplement amounts.³ Chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and ranking members of committees and subcommittees receive a supplement under the current pay structure and under the bill. The supplements are calculated using a percentage of the median household income, based on the supplement amounts under the current pay structure. For instance, the Finance Committee Chairperson receives an additional \$13,500 per year under the current pay structure, which is 21% of the current baseline compensation amount (\$65,528). So under the bill, the Finance Committee Chairperson receives an additional 21% of the statewide median household income each year. The tables below indicate the committee supplements under the current pay structure and under the bill.

³ R.C. 101.27(A)(4).

Table 3. Finance Committee		
Position	Supplement Under Current Pay Structure	Percentage of Median Income Used as Supplement Amount in Bill
Chairperson	\$13,500	21%
Vice-Chairperson	\$7,500	11%
Ranking Minority Member	\$9,000	14%
Standing Subcommittee Chairperson	\$9,000	14%
Standing Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member	\$6,750	10%

Table 4. Standing Committee Other than Finance		
Position	Supplement Under Current Pay Structure	Percentage of Median Income Used as Supplement Amount in Bill
Chairperson	\$9,000	14%
Vice-Chairperson	\$6,750	10%
Ranking Minority Member	\$6,750	10%
Standing Subcommittee Chairperson	\$6,750	10%
Standing Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member	\$3,250	5%

Effective upon beginning of new term

The bill's changes cannot take effect during a member's term because Article 2, Section 31 of the Ohio Constitution prohibits any change in compensation of General Assembly members from taking effect during a member's term. Therefore, the change implemented by the bill will not take effect on the bill's effective date. Rather, the change in compensation will take effect for a member only once the member begins a new term. This means, if passed in time to become effective before the 134th General Assembly begins, the changes will take effect for House members and about half of the Senate members when the 134th General Assembly begins and for the remaining Senate members when the 135th General Assembly begins. If the bill becomes effective during the 134th General Assembly, the changes will take effect for House members and about half of the Senate members when the 135th General Assembly begins and for the remaining Senate members when the 136th General Assembly begins.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-08-20
