

New York State Senate Majority



Finance Committee

Staff Report on the Adopted Budget

FY 2016

Senator Dean G. Skelos

Temporary President of the Senate
Majority Leader
Coalition Leader

Senator Jeffrey D. Klein

Independent Democratic Conference Leader
Coalition Leader

Senator John A. DeFrancisco

Chairman, Finance Committee

Robert F. Mujica

Chief of Staff
Secretary to the Finance Committee

MARCH 2015



- Implements the Infrastructure Investment Act for two years;
- Requires a study after the first year; and
- Requires consultation with local labor organizations and construction industry when using design-build contracts.

Labor Management Committees

State Operations (S. 2000-C)

- The Legislature concurs with the Executive recommendation of \$39.8 million.

Law, Department of

State Operations (S. 2000-C)

- The Legislature concurs with the Executive recommendation of \$225 million.

Capital Projects (S. 2004-C)

- The Legislature concurs with the Executive recommendation of \$1 million.

Legislature and Judiciary (S. 2001-A)

Legislature

- The Legislature concurs with the Executive recommendation of \$217.8 million, including:
 - \$91.9 million for Senate operations;
 - \$108.1 million for Assembly operations;
 - \$17.5 million for joint Legislative Entities such as the Legislative Library, Messenger Service, Ethics Commission, Bill Drafting, and Health Services; and
 - \$274,635 for the Lieutenant Governor, as the Presiding Officer of the Senate.

Judiciary

- The Legislature modifies as follows:
 - Reduces by \$9 million the Executive recommendation for state operations for nonpersonal services.
 - Concurs with the Executive proposal of \$121.6 million for aid to localities.
 - Concurs with the Executive proposal of \$696 million for general state charges.

Article VII Proposal (S. 4610-A)

- PART E - Commission on Executive, Legislative and Judicial Compensation Establishes a new Compensation Commission to examine the adequacy of pay levels and other benefits, and make recommendations on the salaries and allowances for:
 - Certain Executive Branch Employees, including the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and those Executive Branch Employees named in section 169 of the Executive Law;
 - Members of the Legislature (The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on the like annual salaries and allowances of legislators, pursuant to sections 5 and 5-a of the legislative law); and
 - State-paid Judges and Justices of the Unified Court System and New York City Housing Judges.
 - Commission Membership. The Commission, would consist of seven members, appointed as follows:

- Three by the Governor;
- One by the Temporary President of the Senate;
- One by the Speaker of the Assembly; and
- Two by the Chief Judge (one of which would serve as chair and be a non-voting member for non judicial raises).
- Qualifications of Members. The members of the Commission would receive no compensation, but would receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses. To the extent practicable, the members would be required to have experience in one or more of the following:
 - Determination of Executive Compensation;
 - Human Resource Administration; or
 - Financial Management.
- Grounds for Making Recommendations. In making its recommendations for salaries and allowances, the Commission would consider factors such as:
 - Overall economic climate;
 - Rates of inflation;
 - Changes in public sector spending;
 - The state's ability to fund increases; and
 - Compensation levels and non salary benefits received by:
 - Executive branch and legislators in other states;
 - Executive branch and legislators in the federal government;
 - Other professionals in government; and
 - Other professionals in other economic sectors (i.e. academia, non-profit and private enterprise).
- Ethics Recommendations. The Commission would be permitted to consider and make non binding recommendations on earning income from outside sources, per diems and other allowances.
- Commission's Operations. The Commission would commence its operations on June 1, 2015. It would be required to complete its work, by issuing a report with recommendations, for judicial salaries, by December 31, 2015 (and then every four years thereafter) and for legislative and executive salaries, by November 15, 2016 (and then every four years thereafter). It should be noted that the report could include a recommendation of either one or two pay raises for the executive and legislative branches (with one commencing January 1, 2017 and the other, if recommended, commencing 2019). Upon issuing its report, the Commission would be dissolved, and would then be re-established and appointed again every four years (i.e. next June 1, 2019, ect).
- Votes of the Commission: All findings, conclusions, determinations and recommendations of the commission would require a majority vote (4 members) but no finding, conclusion, determination or recommendation could be adopted on an executive or legislative pay raise without a vote from each of the appointed authorities (thereby providing each branch with veto power).
- Commission's Recommendations. The Commission's recommendations would take effect, and have the effect of law (without any additional action needed to be taken by the legislature), unless abrogated or modified by the legislature. Such abrogation or modification must take place before April 1, 2016 for judicial salaries, and before January 1, 2017 for legislative and executive salaries (and then every four years thereafter).
- Rounded Up Salaries. The adjusted salaries would be rounded up to the next highest hundred dollars.