

Nancy Manly

From: Beth Leibowitz
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 3:20 PM
To: Rep. Doug Isaacson
Cc: David Talerico; Skiff Lobaugh; Linda Lord-Jenkins; Nancy Manly
Subject: ombudsman salary questions

Dear Representative Isaacson:

In response to your questions regarding the ombudsman's salary as it compares to heads of other legislative agencies, I spoke with Skiff Lobaugh, the Human Resources Manager for Legislative Personnel. Mr. Lobaugh indicated that the Legislative Council determines the salary of executive director for the Legislative Affairs Agency. The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee determines the salaries for the directors of the Legislative Finance Division and the Division of Legislative Audit. The Legislative Council and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee each have the discretion to grant step increases, and have previously done so.

The Office of Victims' Rights is headed by the Victims' Rights Advocate, whose salary is set by AS 24.65.060, which currently reads: "The victims' advocate is entitled to receive an annual salary of Range 26 on the salary schedule set out in AS 39.27.011(a) for Juneau."

Mr. Lobaugh will be available to answer questions for the House State Affairs Committee on Thursday morning.

In the executive branch, the current statutory provision regarding executive department heads provides:

Sec. 39.20.080. Salary of executive department head and deputy.

- (a) The monthly salary of the head of each principal executive department of the state shall be in accordance with AS 39.23.
- (b) The monthly salary of a deputy head of a principal executive department of the state is equal to a step in Range 28 of the salary schedule in AS 39.27.011.
- (c) Except as provided by a general law applicable to all officers of the state, the compensation of the head of each principal executive department of the state may not be reduced during the executive's tenure in office.

The salaries of commissioners are set pursuant to recommendations from the State Officer's Compensation Commission, as provided by AS 39.23. See <http://doa.alaska.gov/dop/soc/>. Commissioners thus do not appear to receive step increases as such, as the mechanism for increasing their salaries is through recommendations by the State Officer's Compensation Commission. However, deputy commissioners receive a salary equal "a step in Range 28," which appears to leave room for variation within Range 28.

As of 2011, department commissioners received an annual salary of \$135,000. The State Officers' Compensation Commission has not recommended an increase to department commissioners' salaries since 2011.

I believe the ombudsman's annual salary is \$95,316, although Skiff Lobaugh is the authoritative source for personnel and salary issues.