



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Finance Committee

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Official Business

Sponsor Statement

SB 86 – Version A

"An Act disapproving recommendations of the State Officers Compensation Commission relating to the salaries of state officers; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 86 rejects the recommendations of the Alaska State Officers Compensation Commission. The commission submitted a report on January 24th, which recommended salary increases for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and executive department heads. If the legislature wishes to reject these changes, a bill must be enacted by 60 days after this date, or March 25th. Given the necessary time for the Governor to sign a bill or allow it to become law without signature, the bill must pass the legislature by March 8th.

The sponsors believe that the Commission's report did not provide a comprehensive compensation plan for both executive and legislative branch officials. Adequate compensation is critical to attract talented leadership. Partial and piecemeal solutions for compensation of leaders that are making decisions affecting the daily lives and financial future of all Alaskans will not work.

If the current report is rejected, the Senate leadership would like to pursue a comprehensive conversation about the level of compensation necessary to encourage Alaskans to run for office and serve as commissioners. This conversation should also recognize Alaska's citizen legislature, to ensure that legislators are fairly compensated for leaving their homes and families to serve their communities and the state.