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1 IN THE SENATE

BY JOSEPHSON

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Proposing an amendment to the Constitu-
tion of the State of Alaska creating a
commission on compensation of elected
officials.

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9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. Article II, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of Alaska is
11 amended to read:

12 SECTION 7. SALARY AND EXPENSES. Legislators shall receive
13 annual salaries. They may receive a per diem allowance for expenses
14 while in session and are entitled to travel expenses going to and from
15 sessions. Presiding officers may receive additional compensation.
16 Compensation of legislators shall be set by the Commission on Compen-
17 sation of Elected Officials.

18 * Sec. 2. Article III, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska is
19 amended to read:

20 SECTION 15. COMPENSATION. The compensation of the governor and
21 the lieutenant governor shall be prescribed by the Commission on
22 Compensation of Elected Officials [LAW] and shall not be diminished
23 during their term of office, unless by order of the commission consis-
24 tent with a general law applying to all salaried officers of the
25 State.

26 * Sec. 3. Article XII, Constitution of the State of Alaska is amended
27 by adding new sections to read:

28 SECTION 14. COMPENSATION COMMISSION. There is established a
29 Commission on Compensation of Elected Officials. The commission is

1 composed of five members appointed by the governor, subject to confir-
2 mation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint ses-
3 sion. Members serve for terms of six years. The membership shall
4 include at least one business executive, one representative of a
5 nonpartisan voters' organization, one person with experience in public
6 administration, and one representative of a labor organization. A
7 member of the commission may not be employed by the state during the
8 member's term and may not hold an elective state office during the
9 term or within one year thereafter.

10 SECTION 15. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. Except for
11 retirement benefits, which shall be established by general law appli-
12 cable to all officers of the state, the commission shall establish the
13 compensation of the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the
14 legislature, including their salaries, benefits, per diem, and allow-
15 ances, if any. An order of the commission takes effect at the begin-
16 ning of the next fiscal year of the state. The commission shall hold
17 a public hearing in each judicial district before issuing an order
18 that changes the compensation of an elected official. At least every
19 two years, but not more frequently than every year, the commission
20 shall review the compensation of elected officials. The commission
21 shall issue an order with respect to salaries not later than thirty
22 days before the end of the fiscal year.

23 SECTION 16. FINALITY OF ORDER. An order setting the compensa-
24 tion of an elected official is not subject to veto by the governor.
25 An order of the commission is subject to initiative and referendum in
26 the same manner as an act of the legislature. The legislature shall
27 appropriate money to fund the orders of the commission.

28 * Sec. 4. The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed
29 before the voters of the state at the next general election in conformity

1 with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the elec-
2 tion laws of the state.