

52:10A-1

January 16, 1970

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF R.S. 52:10A-1
(Legislative salaries to \$10,000)
(1969 amendment)

Previous bills (1968-1969).

COPY NO. 2

- 1968 - A711 (Wilentz and Fay)
\$20,000 salary - devote full time.
- 1968 - A876 (Brown and others)
\$20,000 - devote full time.
- 1969 - A163 (Wilentz and others)
\$20,000 - full time - Unicameral.
- 1969 - A319 (Brownie, Mable)
\$20,000 - full time
- 1969 - A1,033 (Thomas)
\$30,000 - full time.

L. 1969 - C.180 - A1039.

- May 12 - Introduced by Apy.
- May 15 - Passed in Assembly.
- May - Passed in Senate under emergency resolution.
- Not amended during passage.
- No statement.

Governor's statement on signing (copy enclosed).

See: (copies enclosed).

- Legislators' pay raise approved with other hikes.
Approved May 16, 1969.
- Legislators vote increase in own pay NEN May 16, 1969.
- Lawmakers' pay (edit) Record May 21, 1969.
- Paying the lawmakers. C.P. May 29, 1969.
- Hughes may not sign bill for legislators' pay raise
P.I. July 30, 1969.
- Meyner urges veto of pay raises for the Legislature.
NEN July 30, 1969.
- Hughes "reluctantly" signs pay raise for lawmakers.
ESL November 6, 1969.

RSL/RE

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 1969

By Assemblyman APY

(Without Reference)

AN ACT to amend "An act fixing the annual compensation of members of the Senate and General Assembly and providing for the payment thereof and for the payment of an additional allowance to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly," approved April 9, 1948 (P. L. 1948, c. 16) and making an appropriation therefor.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1948, chapter 16 (C. 52:10A-1) is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 1. Members of the Senate and General Assembly shall receive
4 annually, during the term for which they shall have been elected
5 and while they shall hold their office, compensation in the sum of
6 **[\$5,000.00]** \$7,500.00 each, until the beginning of the legislative
7 year following the next general election for members of the General
8 Assembly and thereafter and beginning with said legislative year
9 they shall receive annually during the term for which they shall
10 have been elected and while they shall hold their office, compensa-
11 tion in the sum of **[\$7,500.00]** \$10,000.00 each. The President of
12 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly, each by virtue
13 of his office, shall receive an additional allowance, equal to 1/3 of
14 his compensation as a member. The compensation herein provided
15 shall be paid to each member upon his qualifying into office as such
16 member, and the additional allowance herein provided to the
17 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly
18 shall be paid upon his qualifying into office as such officer.

1 2. There is hereby appropriated from the General Treasury for
2 the fiscal period ending June 30, 1970, the sum of \$301,667.00 or so
3 much thereof as may be required to implement and carry out the
4 provisions of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES

On November 3, with some reluctance, I approved Assembly Bill No. 1039, which increases the compensation of members of the Legislature from \$7,500 to \$10,000 per year.

Prior to the enactment of A-1039 I had indicated my willingness to approve a selective increase in compensation for certain members of the Legislature, including the legislative leadership and those committee chairmen -- such as of the Joint Appropriations Committee -- who devote untold hours to the performance of their duties.

I have not, however, supported an across-the-board pay raise for all members of the Legislature, preferring to await the recommendations on this matter of the New Jersey Commission on State Administrative and Professional Compensation, which will report shortly.

I have conferred with Chairman Milford Vieser of that distinguished Commission and have been advised that the Commission feels that approval of this bill by me would not be inconsistent with the Commission's forthcoming recommendations in this area.

Moreover, I have signed this bill in view of the fact that disapproval of this measure would preclude any increase in compensation for members of the Legislature until 1972. Article IV, Section IV, Paragraph 8 of the New Jersey Constitution provides that:

"... no increase or decrease (in salary) shall be effective until the legislative year following the next general election for members of the General Assembly."

Increased compensation for members of the Legislature is justified, in my judgment, only if the numerous reforms in the legislative process that I have urged many times are in fact put into effect. These reforms include a far more extensive working schedule, in both general session and in committees, for the Legislature than has been the case to date. For example, since the start of the present legislative session on January 14, the Legislature has met just twenty-two times, and the various committees of the Legislature have met for a total of just thirty-seven days to hold public hearings on pending bills and other major questions.

This limited attention to critical public problems, as I have often stated, is a basic weakness of our present Legislature. My approval of A-1039 carries with it my expectation-- and, I believe, that of the people of New Jersey -- that the Legislature will move aggressively toward the legislative reforms and standard of performance that are essential for the first-rate conduct of public business in New Jersey.

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