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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (COMPENSATION OF LEGISLATORS)

Introduced By: Representative Michael W. Chippendale

Date Introduced: January 31, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general assembly voting therefore, the following amendment to the Constitution of the state be proposed to the qualified electors of the state in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution, for their approval and the following section is hereby amended, effective on January 1, 2015, to read as follows:

6 ARTICLE VI

OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

Section 3. Sessions of general assembly -- Compensation of general assembly members and officers. -- There shall be a session of the general assembly at Providence commencing on the first Tuesday of January in each year. Commencing in January 1995, senators and representatives shall be compensated at an annual rate of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Commencing in 1996, the rate of compensation shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living, as determined by the United States government during a twelve (12) month period ending in the immediately preceding year; provided however that, commencing in 2016, under no circumstances shall they receive an increase in the rate of compensation greater than the rate of the cost-of-living adjustment received by the retired members of the state's employees' retirement system for the same period. Commencing in 2003, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house shall be compensated at an annual rate of double that of other senators and representatives.

Senators and representatives shall receive the same health insurance benefits as full-time
state employees.
Senators and representatives shall be reimbursed for traveling expenses in going to and

from the general assembly at the same mileage paid to state workers as of the 31st day of

December in the year preceding each session.

No senator or representative shall be eligible for any pension on account of service in the general assembly after 1994; provided, however, that those senators and representatives first elected before 1994 who elect to receive compensation for legislative service in 1995 and thereafter, at the rat of five dollars (\$5.00) for every day of actual attendance and eight cents (.08) per mile for traveling expenses in going to and returning from the general assembly, for a maximum of sixty (60) days in any calendar year, shall be eligible for a pension on account of service in the general assembly after 1994. The amount of such pension shall be based upon the pension program in effect for legislators on January 1, 1994.

RESOLVED, That the said proposition of amendment shall be submitted to the electors for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general election. The voting places in the several cities and towns shall be kept open during the house required by law for voting therein for general officers of the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause the said proposition of amendment to be published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said meetings of the said electors; and the said proposition shall e inserted in the warrants or notices to be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward, or district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provide by law for the town, ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (COMPENSATION OF LEGISLATORS)

1	This proposed amendment to the state constitution would provide that, commencing in
2	2016, the annual cost-of-living adjustment to the pay of legislators would not exceed the cost-of-
3	living adjustment received by the retired members of the state's employees retirement system for
1	the same period.
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