



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

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### **H.B. 649**

132nd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Becker, Henne, Lang, Butler, Vitale, Keller, Dean

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Modifies the compensation of General Assembly members by establishing Ohio's median household income as the baseline compensation for a member, with additional compensation provided for leadership or committee positions.
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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **General Assembly compensation**

The bill enacts the "Average Wage Fully Uniform Law (AWFUL)," which sets the compensation for members of the General Assembly equal to Ohio's median household income with additional compensation for leadership or committee positions. Currently, members of the General Assembly receive an amount established by statute and additional compensation is provided to members holding leadership or committee positions. For purposes of the bill, the median household income is the figure set forth most recently by the United States Census Bureau that is available on December 31; the figure available on December 31 is used to determine the amount of compensation provided the following calendar year. The most recent, publicly available figure by the Census Bureau indicates the median household income for Ohio is \$50,674.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Baseline compensation and leadership position compensation**

The table below indicates the current salary of each member and the percentage of Ohio's median household income provided to each member under the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Census Bureau website, accessed June 6, 2018 and available at: [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).

## Senate

Position	Current salary <sup>2</sup>	Salary under the bill, % of Ohio's median household income
President	\$94,437	156%
President Pro Tempore	\$86,165	142%
Minority Leader	\$86,165	142%
Assistant President Pro Tempore	\$81,163	134%
Assistant Minority Leader	\$78,668	130%
Majority Whip	\$76,169	126%
Minority Whip	\$71,173	117%
Assistant Minority Whip	\$63,381	105%
Member	\$60,584	100%

## House

Position	Current salary <sup>3</sup>	Salary under the bill, % of Ohio's median household income
Speaker	\$94,437	156%
Speaker Pro Tempore	\$86,165	142%
Minority Leader	\$86,165	142%
Majority Floor Leader	\$81,163	134%
Assistant Minority Leader	\$78,668	130%
Assistant Majority Floor Leader	\$76,169	126%
Majority Whip	\$71,173	117%
Minority Whip	\$71,173	117%
Assistant Majority Whip	\$66,175	109%
Assistant Minority Whip	\$63,381	105%
Member	\$60,584	100%

The percentage increases for leadership positions are proportional to the increases in compensation provided to the positions under current law. For example,

<sup>2</sup> These amounts reflect the cost of living adjustments applied to the salaries shown in R.C. 101.27 during 2002-2008. These amounts also appear on page 26 of LSC's 2017 Guidebook for Ohio Legislators.

<sup>3</sup> See note 1.



the Speaker's current salary, \$94,437, is a 56% increase<sup>4</sup> from the current baseline member salary, \$60,584. Under the bill, the Speaker receives 156% of Ohio's median household income, which is a 56% increase from the baseline member salary, 100% of Ohio's median household income.

### Committee positions supplement

The bill also modifies the supplements provided as additional compensation to members who hold committee leadership positions. The table below indicates the current supplement provided for each position and the percentage of Ohio's median household income provided for each position under the bill.

<b>Position – Finance committee</b>	<b>Current supplement</b>	<b>Supplement under the bill, % of Ohio's median household income</b>
Chairperson	\$10,000	17%
Vice-Chairperson	\$5,500	9%
Ranking Minority Member	\$6,500	11%
Standing Subcommittee Chairperson	\$6,500	11%
Standing Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member	\$5,000	8%

<b>Position – Standing committee other than Finance</b>	<b>Current supplement</b>	<b>Supplement under the bill, % of Ohio's median household income</b>
Chairperson	\$6,500	11%
Vice-Chairperson	\$5,000	8%
Ranking Minority Member	\$5,000	8%
Standing Subcommittee Chairperson	\$5,000	8%
Standing Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member	\$2,500	4%

<sup>4</sup> These percentages are rounded. In this example, the increase is actually 55.877789%.



The percentages are proportional to the amounts awarded under current law with respect to the baseline compensation a member currently receives, \$60,584. For instance, the chairperson of a standing committee other than Finance currently receives \$6,500, 11% of the baseline compensation, \$60,584.<sup>5</sup> Under the bill, the chairperson will receive an additional 11% of Ohio's median household income.<sup>6</sup>

### Reference changes

Finally, the bill removes a reference to the "consumer price index" and the accompanying definition, which is referenced by other sections in the Revised Code. The bill modifies those sections to maintain the definition of "consumer price index" for purposes of those sections.<sup>7</sup>

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## COMMENT

Article 2, Section 31 of the Ohio Constitution prohibits any change in compensation of General Assembly members from taking effect during a member's term. Therefore, the change implemented by the bill will not take effect on the bill's effective date. Rather, the change in compensation will take effect for a member only once the member begins a new term. This means the changes will take effect for House members and about half of the Senate members when the 133rd General Assembly begins and for the remaining Senate members when the 134th General Assembly begins.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-14-18

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<sup>5</sup> These percentages are rounded. In this example, the increase is actually 10.728905%.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 101.27.

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 141.011, 141.04, and 4928.64.

