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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Watchman DATE TYPED: 02/02/01 HB 449  
 SHORT TITLE: Salary for Legislators SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST: Burch

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
			**		

\*\* See Fiscal Implications Section of this report.

Relates to House Joint Resolution 15

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files.

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 449 amends Section 2-1-8 NMSA 1978 to provide for a salary for legislators contingent upon the adoption by the people of an amendment to the constitution approving legislative salaries. The annual salary provided for in this bill is \$21,000, payable in 12 equal installments on the first day of each calendar month.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently, the constitution does not provide for salaries of state legislators. House Joint Resolution 15 proposes to provide an annual salary not to exceed the average salary paid to legislators in the five contiguous states. The next general election that would include constitutional questions on the ballot will be in November 2002. Should the question be approved by the voters, the change would not make a fiscal impact until the 2003 Legislature. Based on the current salaries of legislators in Arizona (\$24,000), Colorado (\$30,000), Oklahoma (\$38,400), Texas (\$7,200) and Utah (\$4,500), the average salary in New Mexico would be about \$20,820. The total recurring cost to the state general fund would approximate \$2,331.8 beginning in FY03. (See attachment for the six-state comparison of legislative salaries and benefits and other expense allowances.)

DKB/njw  
Attachment

**TABLE 1. COMPENSATION & LIVING EXPENSE ALLOWANCE DURING SESSION, 2000**

State	Salary	Per Diem
Arizona	\$24,000/year.	\$35/day for 1 <sup>st</sup> 120 days of regular session and special session and \$10/day thereafter. Members residing outside Maricopa County receive an additional \$25/day for the 1 <sup>st</sup> 120 days of a regular session and a special session and an additional \$10/day thereafter. Set by statute.
Colorado	\$30,000/year.	\$45/day for members living in the Denver metro area. \$99/day for members living outside Denver. Per diem is determined by the legislature.
New Mexico	None.	\$136/day tied to federal rate & the constitution.
Oklahoma	\$38,400/year.	\$103/day tied to federal rate.
Texas	\$ 7,200/year.	\$118/day set by the Ethics Commission.
Utah	\$ 100/day.	\$75/day lodging allotment for each calendar day, tied to federal rate. \$42/day per diem for each calendar day. (NOTE: Regular session is 45 days long.)

**TABLE 2. LIVING EXPENSE ALLOWANCE DURING INTERIM, 2000**

State	Interim Per Diem
Arizona	\$35/day with prior approval of presiding officer set by statute.
Colorado	Members are reimbursed for actual expenditures.
New Mexico	\$136/day tied to federal rate.
Oklahoma	\$25/day set by the legislature.
Texas	Senators receive \$118/day for legislative business in Travis County, not to exceed 10 days per month. Representatives receive \$118/day for legislative business in Travis County, not to exceed 12 days per month. Per diem amount is determined by the Ethics Commission and the number of days is determined by the Senate Caucus and the Committee on House Administration.
Utah	\$42/day meals; up to \$75/day for lodging.

**TABLE 3. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR HOUSE/ASSEMBLY LEADERS, 1999**

State	Presiding Officer	Majority Leader	Minority Leader	Other Leaders
Arizona	None.	None.	None.	None.
Colorado	All leaders receive \$99/day during interim when in attendance at committee or leadership matters.			
New Mexico	None.	None.	None.	None.
Oklahoma	\$17,932	\$12,364	\$12,364	Speaker pro tem, \$12,364
Texas	None.	None.	None.	None.
Utah	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	Whips and asst whips, \$500

**TABLE 4. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR SENATE LEADERS, 1999**

State	Presiding Officer	Majority Leader	Minority Leader	Other Leaders
Arizona	\$500	None.	None.	None.
Colorado	All leaders receive \$99/day during interim when in attendance at committee or leadership matters.			
New Mexico	None.	None.	None.	None.
Oklahoma	\$17,932	\$12,364	\$12,364	None.
Texas	None.	None.	None.	None.
Utah	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	Whips and asst whips, \$500

**TABLE 5. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 1999**

State	Additional Compensation for Committee Chairs
Arizona	None.
Colorado	None.
New Mexico	None.
Oklahoma	\$12,364 for Appropriations and Budget Committee Chairs.
Texas	None.
Utah	None.

**TABLE 6. STATE LEGISLATORS' TRAVEL ALLOWANCE, 1999**

State	Mileage	Access to State Autos	Credit Card	Phone Card/ Phone Allowance
Arizona	30¢/mile on actual miles.	Access to motorpool for legislative trips only.	No.	No.
Colorado	20¢ or 24¢ if 4wd vehicle. Actual miles paid.	No.	No.	Yes. Official state business only.
New Mexico	32.5¢/mile tied to federal rate	No.	No.	No.
Oklahoma	32.5¢/mile tied to federal rate.	No.	No.	\$1,000 during interim.

State	Mileage	Access to State Autos	Credit Card	Phone Card/ Phone Allowance
Texas	28¢/mile set by General Appropriations bill; an allowance for single, twin and turbo engines from 40¢ to \$1/mile is also given.	No.	Members are eligible for American Express Cards for official use.	Official state business only. House members are limited to available balance in their monthly operating accounts.
Utah	31¢/mile, round trip from home to capital.	No.	No.	Yes. Legislative use only.

TABLE 7. CAPITOL OFFICE, DISTRICT OFFICE AND STAFFING ALLOWANCES, 1999

State	Allowances
Arizona	None.
Colorado	\$2,000/year.
New Mexico	None.
Oklahoma	\$350/year for unvouchered office supplies plus seven rolls of stamps.
Texas	Senate: \$25,000/month for staff salaries. House:\$9,750/month for staff salaries, supplies, stationery, postage, district office rental, telephone expense, etc.
Utah	None.

TABLE 8. HEALTH, DENTAL AND OPTICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR STATE LEGISLATORS, 1999

State	Health	Dental	Optical
Arizona	State pays a set amount, legislator pays remaining balance; depending on plan selected.	Optional at legislator's expense.	Optional at legislator's expense.
Colorado	State pays a portion, legislator pays a portion; amount differs according to plan selected.	State pays full amount. Dependents coverage at legislator's expense.	Not available.
New Mexico	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.
Oklahoma	State pays full amount.	State pays full amount.	Optional at legislator's expense,
Texas	State pays for legislator, legislator pays for dependent coverage.	Optional at legislator's expense.	Included in health coverage.
Utah	State pays full amount depending on plan chosen.	State pays full amount depending on plan chosen.	Optional at legislator's expense.

**TABLE 9. DISABILITY AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR STATE LEGISLATORS, 1999**

State	Disability Insurance	Same as State Employee Plan	Life Insurance	Same as State Employee Plan
Arizona	State pays portion and legislator pays portion for long-term disability; short-term disability available at legislator's expense.	Yes.	Legislator may opt to purchase up to 3 times additional life insurance above the standard \$10,000 base that all state employees receive.	Yes.
Colorado	Not available.	No.	State pays full amount for \$12,000 policy.	Yes.
New Mexico	Not available.	No.	Not available.	No.
Oklahoma	State pays full amount.	Yes. Same as management employees.	State pays full amount (\$20,000). For optional amounts above that, legislator pays.	Yes. Same as management employees.
Texas	Optional at legislator's expense.	Yes.	Optional at legislator's expense.	Yes.
Utah	Optional at legislator's expense.	Yes.	State pays full amount for basic coverage (\$18,000). Additional coverage optional at legislator's expense.	Yes.

**TABLE 10. RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR LEGISLATORS, 1999**

State	Participation	Same as State Employees	Minimum Age and Service Requirement	Contribution Rate
Arizona	Optional.	No.	Age 65 with 5+ years of service; or age 60 with 25+ years of service.	7%.
Colorado	Mandatory.	No.	Age 60 with 5 years of service.	8% of gross salary.
New Mexico	Optional.	No.	Age 65 with 5+ years of service; age 64 with 8+ years of service; age 63 with 12+ years of service; or any age with 14+ years of service.	\$100 per year for service after 1959.
Oklahoma	Optional.	No.	Age 60 with 6 years of service.	Optional contribution of 4.5%, 6%, 7.5%, 8.5%, 9% or 10%.
Texas	Optional.	No.	Age 60 with 8 years of service; or age 50 with 12 years.	8%
Utah	Mandatory.	No.	Age 65 with 4 years of service.	Non-contributory.

TABLE 11. RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR LEGISLATORS, 1999

Estimated Monthly				
State	4 Years	12 Years	20 Years	Benefit Formula
Arizona	\$333.33/month.	\$1,000/month.	\$1,667/month.	4%/year of credited service x 3 year average; maximum is 30% of member's average yearly salary.
Colorado	Not yet vested.	\$350/month.	\$729/month.	2.5% x HAS x creditable service through 20 years plus 1.5% x HAS for 21 through 40 years. Maximum benefit = 80% of employee's HAS.
New Mexico	\$83.33/month.	\$250/month.	\$416.66/month.	\$250 x years of service (after 1959)
Oklahoma	\$426.68 at 10%.	\$1,280.04 at 10%.	\$2,133.40 at 10%.	Average participated salary x length of service x computation factor depending on optional contributions ranging from .019 to .040.
Texas	Not eligible.	\$2,288.25/month.	\$3,813.75/month.	2.25% x district judge's salary (currently \$8,475) x length of service.
Utah	Varies.	Varies.	Varies.	\$10/month x years of service; adjusted semi-annually according to consumer price index, limited to maximum of 4%.