SUMMARY OF NO. 25-37

This proposed law would change the method for calculating stipends paid to certain state legislators on top of their base salaries.

Under the proposed law, legislators would receive stipends, subject to appropriation, based on their leadership positions and/or committee membership. The Senate President and Speaker of the House (Group 1) would receive a stipend of up to 75% of their base salaries. The floor leaders of the two largest parties in each house of the legislature and the chairs of each house’s ways and means committee (Group 2) would receive a stipend of up to 50% of their base salaries. The assistant and second assistant floor leaders of the two largest parties in each house, the third assistant floor leaders of the minority party in each house, and the vice chairs and ranking minority members of each house’s ways and means committee (Group 3) and the chairs of eligible committees (Group 4) would receive a stipend of up to 33% of their base salaries. Legislators who are not in Groups 1-4 who are members of an eligible committee would receive a stipend of up to 20% of their base salaries. A committee would be “eligible” under the proposed law if it was established by the joint rules of the House and Senate and had more than 50 bills referred to it before March 1 of the first year of the legislative session.

The proposed law would provide a further 20% stipend to three categories of senators: (1) any senator in Group 2 or Group 3 who is a member of one or more eligible committees, (2) any senator in Group 4 who is a member of more than one eligible committee, or (3) any senator not in Groups 1-4 who is a member of more than four eligible committees.

Under the proposed law, no senator could receive a stipend for more than two positions, and no representative could receive a stipend for more than one position.

This proposed law would also establish various terms and conditions for the payment of legislative compensation. A Group 4 leader would receive 50% of the leader's stipend in biweekly paychecks; the leader would receive the other 50% in the last paycheck of the year if the leader's eligible committee had achieved compliance that year. Under the proposed law, "compliance" would mean that, on or before the first Monday in December (in the first year of the legislative session) or on or before the last Friday in May (in the second year of the session), an eligible committee had (1) held a public hearing and public mark-up session on each bill referred to it before a specified cutoff date and (2) approved all of its reports by a majority vote at a public meeting with a quorum present. A Group 1-3 leader would receive 50% of the leader's stipend in biweekly paychecks; the leader would receive the other 50%, multiplied by the percentage of eligible committees achieving compliance in that year, in the last paycheck of the year. The proposed law would require the House and Senate clerks to jointly certify compliance and to calculate the compliance percentage each legislative year. Except as otherwise provided, legislators would receive their compensation on a biweekly basis.

Legislators who served in a qualifying position for less than the full biennial session would receive prorated stipends.

The proposed law would take effect on January 6, 2027.