

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS LORIGO, MILLS, DIXON & RATH**

Re: Opposition to Raises for State Legislators through the Legislative, Judicial, & Executive Compensation Commission

WHEREAS, Part HHH of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2018 established the New York State Commission of Legislative, Judicial, & Executive Compensation (“Commission”) to consider the compensation of statewide elected officials, commissioners of the state agencies whose salaries are contained in Section 169 of the Executive Law, and the compensation of members of the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has only four members who are: Thomas P. DiNapoli, H. Carl McCall, Scott Stringer, William C. Thompson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, at the recommendation of the Commission, New York State Legislators will see their pay jump from \$79,500 to \$130,000 over the next three years; and

WHEREAS, the 63.5% increase in salaries would take New York’s Legislators from the third highest paid state representatives to the highest, with California Legislators receiving \$107,240 and Pennsylvania’s receiving \$87,180; and

WHEREAS, the Commission offers reduced stipends for leaders within the Legislature and imposes restrictions on their outside income in an attempt to make the raises more acceptable for New York residents who are forced to carry the additional \$10 million in yearly expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further recommends to increase the salary of the Governor from \$179,000 to \$250,000 in 2021, if fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 salary for the Governor would make the office the highest paid in the entire country; and

WHEREAS, other positions throughout the state government would also receive raises, including the Lieutenant Governor which would increase from \$151,500 to \$220,000 in 2021, and significant raises for the Attorney General, State Comptroller and agency commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the newly proposed salary recommendations will be implemented starting January 1, 2019, if there is no action taken by the NYS Legislature; and

WHEREAS, New York State is already a national leader for the most expensive states to live in; and

WHEREAS, New York ranks 2nd lowest in relative purchasing power at \$0.87 per dollar spent; and

WHEREAS, New York is the 9th highest taxed state for personal income; and

WHEREAS, New York is the highest taxed state in combined sales and income tax rates with an effective rate of 13.04%; and

WHEREAS, the high costs and high taxes faced by residents across the state can be directly attributed to the leadership on the state level, the same people who are accepting a plan to nearly double their salaries; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further introduce a cap on outside income of less than 15% of the Legislative salary level, causing some representatives to reconsider their public service for the stability provided by their private sector careers; and

WHEREAS, there is no rational and legitimate connection to the amount of money a legislator makes from their private sector employment and the quality of their representation in Albany; and

WHEREAS, the excessive pay raises coupled with a prohibition against outside income effectively turns the New York State legislature into a full-time job. Not only does that mean more time for oppressive regulations, unchecked spending, and new methods to tax our residents but it effectively eliminates the best and brightest in our community, like doctors, lawyers, business owners, and teachers, from representing New York residents in favor of career politicians.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOVLED, that this honorable body expresses its opposition to the proposed raises recommended for New York's Legislature, even when coupled with the hollow gesture of limiting outside revenue and lowering stipends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby urges both houses of the NYS Legislature to call for a Special Session in order to reject the newly proposed compensation plan and get back to work to lower New York's taxes and reducing burdensome regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, this honorable body hereby opposes the restrictions on outside income for the state legislature as not rationally related to any measure of quality of representation, which is already determined by the voters; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Legislature, the majority and minority leadership in the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.