

1 H.236

2 Introduced by Representative Satcowitz of Randolph

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Legislature; health insurance; legislator compensation and benefits

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide health
7 insurance and increased compensation to members of the General Assembly
8 beginning in 2033.

9 An act relating to increasing legislator compensation and benefits beginning
10 in the 2033–34 biennium

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 631 is amended to read:

13 § 631. GROUP INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; SALARY
14 DEDUCTIONS FOR INSURANCE, SAVINGS PLANS, AND
15 CREDIT UNIONS

16 (a)(1) The Secretary of Administration may contract on behalf of the State
17 with any insurance company or nonprofit association doing business in this
18 State to secure the benefits of franchise or group insurance. Beginning on
19 July 1, 1978, the terms of coverage under the policy shall be determined under
20 section 904 of this title, but it may include:

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(2)(A)(i) As used in this section, the term “employees” includes any class or classes of elected or appointed officials, State’s Attorneys, sheriffs, employees of State’s Attorneys’ offices whose compensation is administered through the State of Vermont payroll system, except contractual and temporary employees, and deputy sheriffs paid by the State of Vermont pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 290(b). The term “employees” ~~shall~~ does not include ~~members of the General Assembly as such,~~ any person rendering service on a retainer or fee basis, members of boards or commissions, ~~or persons other than employees of the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Film Corporation, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, Vermont State Employees’ Association, and the Vermont Council on the Arts,~~ whose compensation for service is not paid from the State Treasury, or any elected or appointed official ~~unless the~~ except as specifically provided pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i). The term “employees” includes employees of the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the Vermont State Employees’ Association, the Vermont Council on the Arts, and any elected or appointed official who is actively engaged in and devoting substantially full-time to the conduct of the business of his or her the official’s public office. The term “employees” also includes members of the General Assembly as set forth in subdivision (iv) of this subdivision (a)(2)(A).

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(iv) For purposes of group hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance, the term “employees” includes members of the General Assembly.

(B)(i) The premiums for extending insurance coverage to employees shall be paid in full by the Vermont Historical Society, ~~the Vermont Film Corporation,~~ the Vermont State Employees’ Association, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the Vermont Council on the Arts, or their respective retirees. Nothing herein creates a legal obligation on the part of the State of Vermont to pay any portion of the premiums required to extend insurance coverage to this group of employees.

(ii) The General Assembly shall pay the same portion of the premiums for members of the General Assembly who enroll in hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance pursuant to this section as the State pays for other State employees under the most recent collective bargaining agreement, with the members of the General Assembly responsible for the remainder of their premium costs.

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Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 1051 is amended to read:

§ 1051. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
OF THE SENATE; COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENT

1 (a) The Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
2 shall be entitled to receive annual compensation of \$10,080.00 for the 2005
3 Biennial Session and thereafter, to be paid in biweekly payments, provided
4 that, ~~beginning on:~~

5 (1) from January 1, 2007 through January 1, 2021, the annual
6 compensation shall be adjusted annually ~~thereafter~~ by the cost of living
7 adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent collective
8 bargaining agreement, ~~except that, beginning:~~

9 (2) on July 1, 2021 and on January 1 annually thereafter on through
10 January 1, 2032, the annual compensation shall be adjusted consistent with the
11 compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers; and

12 (3) on January 1, 2033, the annual compensation shall be adjusted to an
13 amount equal to two times the amount of the annual compensation for 2032,
14 and annually thereafter on January 1 the annual compensation shall be adjusted
15 consistent with the compensation increases provided to other constitutional
16 officers.

17 (b) In addition to the annual compensation, the Speaker and President Pro
18 Tempore shall be entitled to receive:

19 (1) \$652.00 a week for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter, to be
20 paid in biweekly payments during the regular and adjourned sessions of the
21 General Assembly, provided that, ~~beginning on:~~

1 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 1052 is amended to read:

2 § 1052. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; COMPENSATION
3 AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

4 (a)(1) Each member of the General Assembly, other than the Speaker of the
5 House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, is entitled to a weekly
6 salary of \$589.00 for the 2005 Biennial Session and thereafter, paid in
7 biweekly installments, provided that, ~~beginning on:~~

8 (A) from January 1, 2007 through January 1, 2021, the weekly
9 compensation shall be adjusted annually ~~thereafter~~ by the cost of living
10 adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent collective
11 bargaining agreement, ~~except that, beginning:~~

12 (B) on July 1, 2021 and on January 1 annually thereafter ~~on~~ through
13 January 1, 2032, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted consistent with the
14 compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers. ~~The salary of~~
15 ~~members shall be paid in biweekly installments; and~~

16 (C) on January 1, 2033, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted to
17 an amount equal to two times the amount of the weekly compensation for
18 2032, and annually thereafter on January 1 the weekly compensation shall be
19 adjusted consistent with the compensation increases provided to other
20 constitutional officers.

1 (2) During a special session, a member is entitled to an amount equal to
2 one-fifth of the annually adjusted weekly compensation set forth in subdivision
3 (1) of this subsection, rounded up to the nearest dollar, for each day of a
4 special session on which the House of which he or she is a member in which
5 the member serves shall sit.

6 * * *

7 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

8 (a) Sec. 1 (3 V.S.A. § 631; legislator health insurance) shall take effect on
9 January 1, 2033.

10 (b) Secs. 2 and 3 (32 V.S.A. §§ 1051 and 1052; legislator salary increases
11 beginning in 2033) and this section shall take effect on passage.