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Legislative Coordinating Commission

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Compensation Council

April 7, 1999

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Allan H. Spear
President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

In accordance with the duties assigned to it by Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 15A.082, the Minnesota Compensation Council offers the following recommendations:

1) Increase the salaries of Judges in 2001 and 2002. The Council recommends that salaries of judges be increased by 3.5% on January 1, 2001, and 3.5% on January 1, 2002.

In addition, the Council recommends that the salaries of judges be increased in 2001 and 2002 by the average of the across the board increases received by state employees in their collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards.

Specifically, the salaries of judges should be increased on January 1, 2001, by the average of the across the board increases for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2000, included in collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards that have been ratified by the Legislature in regular session in 2000. The salaries of judges should be increased on January 1, 2002, by the average of the across the board increases for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2001, included in collective bargaining agreements and arbitration awards that have been ratified by the Legislature in regular session in 2000.

2) Increase the salaries of Constitutional Officers in 2001 and 2002. The Council recommends that the salary of the Governor be increased by 7.5% on January 1, 2001, and by 2.5% on January 1, 2002.

In addition, the Council recommends that the salaries of the other constitutional officers be fixed as a percentage of the salary of the Governor, as follows:

<u>Constitutional Officer</u>	<u>% of the Governor's salary</u>
Attorney General	85%
State Auditor	75%
Secretary of State	65%
Lt. Governor	55%
State Treasurer	55%

If the Legislature rejects our recommendation to change the compensation relationships among the constitutional officers, the Council recommends that each constitutional officer receive a salary increase of 7.5% on January 1, 2001, and an increase of 2.5% on January 1, 2002.


3) Increase the salaries of Legislators in 2001 and 2002. The Council recommends that salaries of Legislators be increased by 5% on January 1, 2001, and by 2.5% on January 1, 2002.

In addition to the recommendations required by law, the Compensation Council urges the following:

4) Allow the Governor to approve increases in agency head salaries without legislative approval. Under current law, the Governor may set the salary of an agency head within a statutory range, but a new salary rate does not take effect until approved by the Legislative Coordinating Commission and is not final until ratified by the Legislature. The Compensation Council recommends that the requirement for approval by the Legislative Coordinating Commission and the Legislature be eliminated for heads of state agencies appointed by the Governor.

I have included a list of the members of the Council at the end of this recommendation. The members worked diligently and thoughtfully to develop these recommendations for consideration by the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,


Gene Merriam
Chair, Compensation Council

c: Governor Jesse Ventura
 Lt. Governor Mae Schunk
 Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz
 Attorney General Mike Hatch
 State Auditor Judith Dutcher
 Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer
 State Treasurer Carol Johnson
 Senator Roger Moe
 Senator Dick Day
 Representative Tim Pawlenty
 Representative Tom Pugh

Members of the Compensation Council

Appointed by the Governor

Mr. Richard McCluhan
 Mr. Verne Meyer
 Ms. Polly Bowles
 Mr. Thomas Triplett
 Mr. Richard Jefferson
 Mr. Gene Merriam
 Ms. Cynthia Bigger
 Mr. Buford Johnson

Appointed by the House of Representatives

Representative Bruce Anderson
 Representative Torrey Westrom
 Representative Joe Mullery

Appointed by the Supreme Court

Mr. Thomas Swain
 Mr. George Soule

Appointed by the Senate

Senator Allan Spear
 Senator Jerry Janezich
 Senator Martha Robertson