STATE OF NEW YORK

5002

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 6, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. O'DONNELL, LIFTON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to compensation of members of the legislature and prohibiting members of the legislature from receiving certain outside income

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 5 of the legislative law, as amended by chapter 635 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

Effective January first, [~~nineteen hundred ninety-nine~~] **two thousand eighteen**, each member of the legislature shall receive a salary [~~of seventy-nine thousand five hundred dollars per annum~~] **in an amount equal to the salary of the members of the United States Congress**. Such salary of a member of the legislature shall be payable in twenty-six bi-weekly installments provided, however, that if legislative passage of the budget as defined in subdivision three of this section has not occurred prior to the first day of any fiscal year, the net amount of any such bi-weekly salary installment payments to be paid on or after such day shall be withheld and not paid until such legislative passage of the budget has occurred whereupon bi-weekly salary installment payments shall resume and an amount equal to the accrued, withheld and unpaid installments shall be promptly paid to each member.

§ 2. The legislative law is amended by adding a new section 5-b to read as follows:

§ 5-b. Prohibition on outside earned income for members. 1. Starting in calendar year two thousand eighteen, a member of the legislature may not have outside earned income attributable to such year which exceeds fifteen percent of the gross annual salary of members of the legislature, pursuant to section five of this article.

2. a. For the purposes of this section, the term "outside earned income" includes, but is not limited to, wages, salaries, fees, and other forms of compensation for services actually rendered.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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b. For the purposes of this section, the term "outside earned income" does not include:

(1) salary, benefits, and allowances paid by New York state;

(2) income attributable to service with the military reserves or national guard;

(3) income from pensions and other continuing benefits attributable to previous employment or services;

(4) income from investment activities, where the member's services are not a material factor in the production of income;

(5) income from a trade or business in which the member or their family holds a controlling interest, where the member's services are not a material factor in the production of income;

(6) copyright royalties, fees, and their functional equivalent, from the use or sale of copyright, patent and similar forms of intellectual property rights, when received from established users or purchasers of those rights; and

(7) compensation for services actually rendered prior to January first, two thousand eighteen, or prior to being sworn in as a member of the legislature.

3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, members of the legislature are prohibited from:

a. receiving compensation for affiliating with or being employed by a firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity that provides professional services involving a fiduciary relationship, except for the practice of medicine;

b. permitting their name to be used by such a firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity;

c. receiving compensation for practicing a profession that involves a fiduciary relationship except for the practice of medicine;

d. receiving compensation as an officer or member of the board of an association, corporation, or other entity;

e. receiving compensation for teaching, without prior notification to and approval from the legislative ethics commission;

f. receiving advance payments on copyright royalties, fees, and their functional equivalents.

4. A member of the legislature who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars. Assessment of a civil penalty shall be made by the legislative ethics commission. The legislative ethics commission, acting pursuant to subdivision eleven of section eighty of this chapter, may, in lieu of or in addition to a civil penalty, refer a violation to the appropriate prosecutor and upon such conviction, but only after such referral, such violation shall be punishable as a class A misdemeanor.

§ 3. Subdivision 7 of section 80 of the legislative law is amended by adding a new paragraph f-1 to read as follows:

f-1. Promulgate guidelines for members of the legislature to request permission from the commission to accept compensation for teaching, and promulgate guidelines for the commission to evaluate and issue a determination for such requests;

§ 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 of section 80 of the legislative law, as amended by section 9 of part A of chapter 399 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An individual subject to the jurisdiction of the commission with respect to the imposition of penalties who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of subdivisions two through five-a, seven,

eight, twelve, fourteen or fifteen of section seventy-three of the public officers law **or section five-b of this chapter** or a reporting individual who knowingly and wilfully fails to file an annual statement of financial disclosure or who knowingly and wilfully with intent to deceive makes a false statement or gives information which such individual knows to be false on such statement of financial disclosure filed pursuant to section seventy-three-a of the public officers law shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars and the value of any gift, compensation or benefit received as a result of such violation. Any such individual who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of paragraph a, b, c, d, e, g, or i of subdivision three of section seventy-four of the public officers law shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars and the value of any gift, compensation or benefit received as a result of such violation. Assessment of a civil penalty hereunder shall be made by the commission with respect to persons subject to its jurisdiction. In assessing the amount of the civil penalties to be imposed, the commission shall consider the seriousness of the violation, the amount of gain to the individual and whether the individual previously had any civil or criminal penalties imposed pursuant to this section, and any other factors the commission deems appropriate. For a violation of this section, other than for conduct which constitutes a violation of subdivision twelve, fourteen or fifteen of section seventy-three or section seventy-four of the public officers law, the legislative ethics commission may, in lieu of or in addition to a civil penalty, refer a violation to the appropriate prosecutor and upon such conviction, but only after such referral, such violation shall be punishable as a class A misdemeanor. Where the commission finds sufficient cause, it shall refer such matter to the appropriate prosecutor. A civil penalty for false filing may not be imposed hereunder in the event a category of "value" or "amount" reported hereunder is incorrect unless such reported information is falsely understated. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no other penalty, civil or criminal may be imposed for a failure to file, or for a false filing, of such statement, or a violation of subdivision six of section seventy-three of the public officers law, except that the appointing authority may impose disciplinary action as otherwise provided by law. The legislative ethics commission shall be deemed to be an agency within the meaning of article three of the state administrative procedure act and shall adopt rules governing the conduct of adjudicatory proceedings and appeals taken pursuant to a proceeding commenced under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules relating to the assessment of the civil penalties herein authorized. Such rules, which shall not be subject to the promulgation and hearing requirements of the state administrative procedure act, shall provide for due process procedural mechanisms substantially similar to those set forth in such article three but such mechanisms need not be identical in terms or scope. Assessment of a civil penalty shall be final unless modified, suspended or vacated within thirty days of imposition, with respect to the assessment of such penalty, or unless such denial of request is reversed within such time period, and upon becoming final shall be subject to review at the instance of the affected reporting individuals in a proceeding commenced against the legislative ethics commission, pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules.

§ 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2018.