



Allegheny County Council

County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499

Legislation Text

File #: 12638-23, **Version:** 1

An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, directing that a referendum question regarding the amendment of Article III, §7(a) of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County, which establishes a per-meeting stipend pay structure for members of Council, be placed on the November 7, 2023 General Election ballot.

Whereas, Article III, §7(a) of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County establishes that “County Council Members shall not receive a salary but may receive per-meeting stipends not to exceed in the aggregate \$9,000 annually per member. The aggregate stipend may be increased by up to five percent every five years.”; and

Whereas, pursuant to the terms of Article III, §7(a), the current maximum annual per-meeting stipend total has been adjusted from the original \$9,000 to \$10,939 as of 2023;

Whereas, the prohibition on receiving a regular salary is unique to County Council members, and does not apply to any other elected official governed by the terms of the Home Rule Charter; and

Whereas, in the decades since the Charter was drafted, the position of County Council member has become progressively more time-intensive, and now frequently requires the elected Council members’ attention to matters outside of the Council’s regular meetings; and

Whereas, it is the judgment of Council that imposing more stringent salary restrictions upon members of Council serves no meaningful purpose, insofar as the pay structure for members of Council is entirely unrelated to the function or operations of County government; and

Whereas, imposing a unique and arbitrarily restrictive pay structure upon Council members has significant potential to function as a disincentive for qualified individuals to seek the office; and

Whereas, as part of its 2016 report, the Allegheny County Government Review Commission expressly recommended that the pay of Council members be altered from a per-meeting stipend to a regular salary;

The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby enacts as follows:

SECTION 1. Incorporation of the Preamble.

The provisions set forth in the preamble to this Ordinance are incorporated by reference in their entirety herein.

SECTION 2. Ballot Question.

Pursuant to the Second Class County Charter Law and the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, the Allegheny County Board of Elections is hereby directed to place the following question on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot for consideration and approval by the registered electors of the County:

Shall Article III, Subsection 7(a) of Allegheny County's Home Rule Charter be amended in order to provide Council members with an annual salary of \$10,939, to be increased no more than five percent every five years?

SECTION 3. Effective Date.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final approval.

SECTION 4. Severability. *If any provision of this Ordinance shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance which shall be in full force and effect.*

SECTION 5. Repealer. *Any Resolution or Ordinance or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Ordinance.*