

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-223

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND
4 GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING AMENDMENT
5 70 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS
6 OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO BE SET BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
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8 WHEREAS, Amendment 70, § 1 of the Arkansas Constitution sets forth the
9 exact monetary amount of the salary of each of the following officers of the
10 Executive Department: the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary
11 of State, the Treasurer of State, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of
12 State Lands, and the Auditor of State; and
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14 WHEREAS, the presence of exact salary amounts in the Arkansas
15 Constitution leads to the necessity of a constitutional amendment each time
16 salary amounts are adjusted other than the adjustments allowed by Amendment
17 70, § 3; and
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19 WHEREAS, Amendment 70, § 3 of the Arkansas Constitution states that the
20 salaries of the officers of the Executive Department "may be adjusted
21 annually through subsequent appropriations by the General Assembly by an
22 amount not to exceed the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price
23 Index for All Urban Consumers or its successor, as published by the United
24 States Department of Labor, for the two years immediately preceding the year
25 of the salary appropriation"; and
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27 WHEREAS, there have been four (4) constitutional amendments regarding
28 salaries of the officers of the Executive Department, as follows: Amendment
29 15 (1927), Amendment 37 (1964), Amendment 56 (1975), and Amendment 70 (1992);
30 and
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32 WHEREAS, Arkansas is the second lowest paying state in the United
33 States with regard to state officers; and
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35 WHEREAS, Amendment 56, § 4 of the Arkansas Constitution establishes the
36 method for setting compensation for municipal officers as being fixed by the

1 governing body of the municipality; and

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3 WHEREAS, amending Amendment 70, § 1 to remove the specific salary
4 amounts of officers of the Executive Department and to state that the
5 compensation of officers of the Executive Department shall be fixed by the
6 General Assembly, in a manner similar to that in Amendment 56, § 4, would
7 eliminate the need to amend the Constitution each time there is an increase
8 in salary above the amount allowed by Amendment 70, § 3; and

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10 WHEREAS, the people of the State of Arkansas would be well-served by a
11 study considering the possibility of amending Amendment 70 to the Arkansas
12 Constitution to allow the salaries of officers of the Executive Department to
13 be set by the General Assembly,

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15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 THAT the House Interim Committee On State Agencies And Governmental
20 Affairs study the possibility of amending Amendment 70 to the Arkansas
21 Constitution to allow the salaries of officers of the Executive Department to
22 be set by the General Assembly.

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24 Respectfully submitted,

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28 Representative Michael Lamoureux
29 District 68

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36 Filed Date: 06/13/2008 By: JET/cds