



NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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For more information:
Blair Horner 518 727-4506
bhorner@nypirg.org

DESPITE NEW LIMITS ON LEGISLATORS' "MOONLIGHTING" IN PAY RAISE DEAL, ALBANY'S REFORM AGENDA IS FAR FROM FINISHED

AGREEMENT DIFFERS FROM CONGRESSIONAL APPROACH

(*Albany, N.Y.*) The report of the State Compensation Committee does too little to reduce the risk of corruption in New York. While we agree with an approach that limits outside income and slashes the number of "lulus" available to legislators, much more needs to be done to respond to Albany's "pay-to-play" scandals, inadequate oversight of contracting and ethics, and weak campaign finance regulation.

Moreover, despite what was discussed at the previous meeting of the Committee, the number of stipends differs from those provided to the Congress. The Congress grants only 4 stipends to the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate and the majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate. (See: Congressional Research Service, April 2018, <https://www.senate.gov/CRSPubs/9c14ec69-c4e4-4bd8-8953-f73daa1640e4.pdf>.) There are 535 members of the Congress.

Under the Committee's plan, a total of 15 stipends will be offered in both houses, which contain a total of 213 members. In the Assembly, there will be 9 stipends available to the: (1) the Speaker of the Assembly at \$41,500, (2) the Majority Leader at \$34,500, (3) Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly at \$25,000, (4) the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee at \$34,000, (5) Chair of the Codes Committee at \$18,000, as well as the (6) Minority Leader at \$34,500; (7) Minority Leader Pro Tempore at \$20,500; and (8) Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee at \$20,500; and, the (9) Ranking Member of the Codes Committee at \$11,000.

In the Senate, there will be 6 stipends available for the: (1) Temporary President at \$41,500, (2) Deputy Majority Leader at \$34,000, (3) the Chair of the Finance Committee at \$34,000, as well as the (4) Minority Leader at \$34,500; (5) Deputy Minority Leader at \$20,500, and (6) Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee at \$20,500. In both houses, the amounts of the stipends shall remain unchanged from current levels.

For more information on outside income, <https://www.nypirg.org/pubs/201502/Two-masters-outside-income-2.23.15.pdf>.

For a full listing of current legislative stipends,
https://www.nypirg.org/pubs/201811/Final_Release_Pay_11.12.18.pdf.

NYPIRG's recommendations include: (1) independent oversight of agency contracting and better disclosures, (2) independent oversight of ethics enforcement, (3) restricting outside income for lawmakers and members of the executive, (4) restricting campaign contributions from those seeking or receiving contracts, (5) more disclosures for those who "bundle" campaign contributions, as well as (6) new changes to the state's campaign financing system – such as limits on LLCs and a voluntary system of public financing.