

the General Assembly Compensation Commission. The Commission shall consist of nine members, five of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. Members of the General Assembly and officers and employees of the Government of the State of Maryland or of any county, city, or other governmental unit of the State shall not be eligible for appointment to the Commission. The members of the initial Commission shall be appointed within ten days after this Constitutional Amendment takes effect, and their terms shall expire May 31, 1974. Beginning June 1, 1974, members of the Commission shall be appointed for terms of four years. Members of the Commission are eligible for reappointment. Any member of the Commission may be removed by the Governor prior to the expiration of his term for official misconduct, incompetence or neglect of duty. The members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this section. Decisions of the Commission must be concurred in by at least five members.

(3) Within 15 days after the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly in 1974 and within 15 days after the beginning of the regular session in each fourth year thereafter the Commission by formal resolution shall submit its determinations for compensation and allowances to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may reduce or reject but shall not increase any item in the resolution. The resolution, with any reductions that shall have been concurred in by joint resolution of the General Assembly, shall take effect and have the force of law as of the beginning of the term of office of the next General Assembly. The provisions thereof shall continue in force until superseded by any succeeding resolution.

(4) Until ratification of this amendment and the effective date of compensation and allowances established as hereinabove set forth, the compensation and allowances shall remain as they were prior to ratification of this amendment providing, however, that within 15 days after the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly in 1971 the Commission by formal resolution shall submit its determinations for compensation and allowances to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may reduce or reject but shall not increase any item in the resolution, notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 17 and 35 of Article III. The resolution, with any reduction that shall have been concurred in by joint resolution of the General Assembly within 30 days of its receipt by the General Assembly, shall take effect and have the force of law as of January 1, 1971 unless rejected by the joint resolution of the General Assembly within 30 days of its receipt by the General Assembly, and said resolution shall continue in force until superseded by any succeeding resolution.

(5) In no event shall the compensation and allowances be less than they were prior to the ratification of this Constitutional Amendment."

By proclamation dated November 25, 1970, Marvin Mandel, the Governor of Maryland, declared the constitutional amendment creating a General Assembly Compensation Commission to be effective. The nine members of the Commission were duly appointed on December 3, 1970, in conformity with the new Article III, Section 15(2) of the Constitution.