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HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

daily floor report

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
83rd Legislature, Number 2
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

The House today is expected to consider HR 3 by Geren, the proposed Housekeeping Resolution for the 83rd Legislature. A summary of HR 3 as filed begins on page 1.

The Sunset Advisory Commission is scheduled to meet today starting at 8:30 a.m. in Capitol Extension Room E1.036, the Senate Finance Committee Room, for its final vote on recommendations to the 83rd Legislature on agencies under Sunset review.



Bill Callegari
Chairman
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PROPOSED HOUSEKEEPING RESOLUTION CHANGES

The administration and operation of the House of Representatives are governed primarily by the Housekeeping Resolution adopted for the two-year term of each legislature. HR 3 by Geren, the proposed Housekeeping Resolution for the 83rd Legislature (2013-14), would increase the amount of the monthly operating account for House member offices, keep constant the salary cap for most House member and committee staff, and update various dates and references to the 83rd Legislature.

Monthly Operating Accounts

The monthly allocation to members' operating accounts would increase to \$13,250 from \$11,925 for months that fall wholly or partially within the 2013 regular session. This would be \$1,325, or 10 percent, more than in the 2011 regular session and would restore the monthly allocation to the amount approved in the 2009 regular session. The session amount also would apply to each month that fell wholly or partially within a special session (sec. 5.04(a), p. 20).

HR 3 would set the standard amount allocated to a member's operating account for months other than those within a regular or special session at \$11,925, rather than the previous interim monthly amount of \$11,500. The proposed resolution would remove a grant of authority to the Committee on House Administration to set a higher monthly amount for interim months (sec. 5.04(a), pp. 20-21).

	79th Leg. 2005	80th Leg. 2007	81st Leg. 2009	82nd Leg. 2011	Proposed 83rd Leg. 2013
Monthly member operating account:	\$11,250	\$11,750	\$13,250 (regular session)	\$11,925 (regular or special session)	\$13,250 (regular or special session)
		\$12,250 (maximum possible adjustment, as of 9/1/07)	\$12,250 (interim, with possible adjustment up to \$13,250)	\$11,500 (interim, with possible adjustment up to \$11,925)	\$11,925 (interim)
Member and committee employee salary cap:	\$3,750	\$4,017	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200

The maximum amount of unspent funds that a member could carry forward from one fiscal year to the next would remain at \$20,000 (sec. 5.05(b), p. 22).

The monthly salary cap for most member and committee employees would remain at \$4,200 (sec. 4.07(d), p. 15). As in the 82nd Legislature, the amount of the salary cap could be adjusted by the Committee on House Administration to account for any salary increase provided to all state employees. Also as before, members could exempt one employee on their own staff from the salary cap, and committee chairs could exempt one employee on their committee staff from the cap.

Other Revisions

HR 3 would specify that a House employee's employing authority had primary responsibility for overseeing and discharging the employee. The chair of the Committee on House Administration, with the committee's approval, would have authority to investigate allegations of misconduct and dismiss any employee who was not needed or was found guilty of misconduct.

The proposed resolution would specify that the Committee on House Administration is required to provide funds to adequately staff standing committees of the House and other committees appointed by the speaker.

HR 3 would update various dates to reflect references to the 83rd Legislature.