MESSAGE FROM THE

OKLAHOMA STATE SENATE

5/21/2015

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Transmitting Enrolled **SB 549**, and advising that under the provisions of Section 11, Article VI, of the constitution of the state of Oklahoma, the Senate and the House of Representatives has reconsidered and passed said Bill, over the Governor's Veto, by a two-thirds vote of each House.

By order of the Senate of the State of Oklahoma, this message is sent:

Respectfully,

PAUL ZIRIAX

_____
Secretary, Oklahoma State Senate

Received by the Secretary of State

Date_____

By_____

7

10:00:00

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2015
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE
A.C. @ 10:15AM

OFFICE OF

No. SB 549

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., May 8, 20 15

TIME SIGNED: 11:35AM

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE
FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 549:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 549.

Senate Bill 549 (Bill) dramatically alters how future elected State officers are to be paid. It decouples State officers' salaries from judicial salaries, and instead, codifies a specific and fixed annual salary for each officer, including the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Corporation Commissioners, the State Treasurer, the State Auditor and Inspector, the State Insurance Commissioner, and the Commissioner of Labor (collectively referred to as "State Officers").

There are two significant deficiencies that compel me to veto this Bill. First, recent compensation reform initiatives have discarded the practice of codifying State employee salaries for good reason: fixing salary in statute tends to calcify salaries without regard to such pertinent considerations as inflation; the current fiscal health of the State; and most importantly, each particular employee's performance.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 549:

That is why neutral third-party compensation boards determine the salaries of officials in the other two co-equal branches of Oklahoma government, the Judiciary and the Legislature. These boards are comprised of representatives from a wide swath of our State's citizenry—including labor and civic organizations, communications media and retail business, agriculture, nonstate-supported educational institutions, and religious organizations. As such, the boards emphasize the fact that it is the people of this great State who are the true bosses of the leaders they elect.

It would be better policy to create a new and distinct compensation board for State Officers in the Oklahoma Statutes. In the meantime, however, I cannot approve this Bill. To do so would strip State Officers' compensation decisions from being made at least by a neutral and representative board, that being the Board on Judicial Compensation, which currently sets the salaries to which State Officers' salaries are tied.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By Becky Welch

Date/Time May 8, 2015 4:15 pm

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 549

By: Sykes of the Senate

and

McCullough of the House

An Act relating to state officers; amending 74 O.S. 2011, Section 250.4, as amended by Section 3 of Enrolled House Joint Resolution No. 1096 of the 2nd Session of the 54th Oklahoma Legislature (74 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 250.4), which relates to statewide elected officers; modifying salaries; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: State officers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2011, Section 250.4, as amended by Section 3 of Enrolled House Joint Resolution No. 1096 of the 2nd Session of the 54th Oklahoma Legislature (74 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 250.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 250.4 Pursuant to provisions of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma from and after the beginning date of a term of office which commences in, or after, January ~~1999~~ 2016, the following officers of the State of Oklahoma shall be annually compensated for their services, payable monthly, as follows:

1. The Governor shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court; provided however, the Governor shall not receive any increase in~~

~~salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Forty-seven Thousand Dollars ($147,000.00);

2. The Lieutenant Governor shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by an associate district judge in a county with a population greater than ten thousand (10,000) and less than thirty thousand (30,000); provided however, the Lieutenant Governor shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($114,713.00);

3. The Attorney General shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by the Presiding Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals; provided however, the Attorney General shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-five Dollars ($132,825.00);

4. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by a district judge; provided however, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Twenty-four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-three Dollars ($124,373.00);

5. Each member of the Corporation Commission shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by an associate district judge in a county with a population of over thirty thousand (30,000); provided however, the Commissioners shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($114,713.00);

6. The State Treasurer shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by an associate district judge in a county with a population of over thirty thousand (30,000); provided however, the State Treasurer shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($114,713.00);

7. The State Auditor and Inspector shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by an associate district judge in a county~~

~~with a population of over thirty thousand (30,000); provided however, the State Auditor and Inspector shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($114,713.00);

8. The State Insurance Commissioner shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by an associate district judge in a county with a population of over thirty thousand (30,000); provided however, the State Insurance Commissioner shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($114,713.00); and

9. The Commissioner of Labor shall receive a salary ~~equal to the salary received by a special judge; provided however, the Commissioner of Labor shall not receive any increase in salary as a result of the provisions of Section 1 of this resolution~~ of One Hundred Five Thousand Fifty-three Dollars ($105,053.00).

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution.

Passed the Senate the 30th day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 20th day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 4th

day of May, 2015, at 3:32 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 21st

day of May, 2015, at 10:15 o'clock A. M.

By: Chris Benge