

Higher legislative pay recommended

Ind. Dec. 1, 1982

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

The Idaho legislative Compensation Committee has recommended legislative salaries to remain about the same but for an increase in expenses from \$44 to 60 per day, Ray W. Rigby, Rexburg, chairman, announced Wednesday.

The Legislature has 25 days to reject the recommendation during the session or else it automatically takes effect. The Legislature rejected the recommended increase two years ago.

Rigby said following a recent committee meeting "we kept salaries about the same but set them on a daily rate rather than a monthly rate at the session of the payroll clerks on both houses and the auditor's office. However, we raised the daily expense rate from \$44 to \$60. Those expenses haven't been adjusted in four years."

Rigby explained the Internal Revenue Service allows \$62.50 per day without accounting.



Ray W. Rigby

Susan Bennion, senior research analyst for the Legislative Council, said the present salaries are \$800 monthly for the three months the Legislature is in session and \$200 a month for the nine other months in the year, or \$4,200 yearly in salaries.

The expenses are presently \$44 daily for legislators who maintain a second home in Boise during the session, meaning mostly those outside of the Boise-Nampa area, and \$25 for the Boise-Nampa residents.

Under the new recommended schedule, the expenses for the Boise-Nampa area legislators would be increased from this \$25 to \$35.

The expenses also apply for the lieutenant governor.

Mrs. Bennion explained state employees are paid bi-weekly and the new daily schedule will make it easier for the state auditor to pay them.

Rigby said the new legislative salary under the new recommended schedule will total \$30 daily during the session, including the organizational session, and \$7 per calendar for each remaining day of the year. As most past sessions have been about 75-80 days, this would total near \$2,300. The \$7 daily pay for the other approximate 280 days would reach near \$2,000, or aggregate total of \$4,300.

Mrs. Bennion noted the increased pay and expenses also apply to the organizational session Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and for December and January.