ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH UNIT

August 8, 2008

## HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE PAY INCREASES

Your district office asked us for information on the history of Illinois legislative pay increases. We enclose the most recent versions of two of our reports that we hope provide the information you need on pay increases in past years.

The Comptroller's office reports that the current base legislative salary (as of July 1, 2008) is $67,836—a 3.8% increase from the previous amount of $65,353.[1] The 3.8% increase was listed in this year's report of the Compensation Review Board as the "Fiscal Year 2009 COLA"—indicating that it is to compensate for inflation in the latest year. The Board actually recommended raising the base legislative salary to $70,022, which would have reflected a fiscal year 2006 2.2% inflation adjustment and 1% salary increase that were not implemented.[2] We also enclose a copy of the Board's report.

Each year brings a series of interactions among the Compensation Review Board's report, legislative resolutions seeking to disapprove it, and legislative and gubernatorial actions on appropriations that are needed to fund increases. Because you needed information quickly, we are sending you the enclosed information without compiling a complete list of such actions that occurred this year. If you would like us to do that, please let us know.

**LRU**☐☐☐■

We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

David R. Miller
Deputy Director for Research

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Enclosures

1. Legislative Research Unit, "History of Illinois Legisla-
   tors' Compensation and Expense Allowances" (File 11-067,
   March  28, 2007).
2. Legislative Research Unit, "Legislative Pay Raises Since
   1974 and Salaries in Constant Dollars Since 1917" (File 11-
   022, Jan. 22, 2004).
3. Compensation Review Board, 2008 report (March  31, 2008).

Notes

1.  Telephone conversation with Kathy Cutler, Comptroller's
    office, Aug. 7, 2008.
2.  Compensation Review Board, 2008 report (March  31, 2008),
    p. 19, top line of table and note 6.