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Senate

State of Minnesota

TO: Members of the Compensation Council

FROM: Stephanie James, Senate Counsel (651/296-0103) 

DATE: February 1, 2017

RE: Total Compensation Packages for Constitutional Officers and Judges

In addition to the salaries listed in the other materials distributed for this meeting, Minnesota's constitutional officers and judges receive retirement and insurance benefits. The benefits and payments listed in this memorandum should be considered along with actual salaries in determining those officials' total compensation.

Constitutional Officers

The state's constitutional officers are covered by the unclassified employee retirement plan administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System. The unclassified plan is a defined-contribution plan to which the state contributes six percent and the employee contributes 5.5 percent of salary. The benefit paid at retirement is a function of age at retirement and the value of the participant's account at retirement.

In addition, constitutional officers are covered by the same insurance benefits offered to state employees, that include health, dental, and term life coverage. Officers have the option of participating in a deferred compensation plan.

Finally, the governor's compensation includes use of a residence and a car and driver.

Judges

Judges are also covered by a retirement plan. The Pensions Commission staff will provide a memo with details on this plan. Judges are covered by the same insurance benefits offered to state employees, that include health, dental, and term life coverage. Judges have the option of participating in a deferred compensation plan.

SJJ:rdr