

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: The Speaker (By Request – Governor's Salary Commission)

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Governor's Salary Commission – Salary Recommendations for Governor and**
3 **Lieutenant Governor**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the salaries to be paid the Governor and Lieutenant
5 Governor, as directed by Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution, for the
6 4-year term of office beginning January 20, 2027.

7 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution established a
8 seven-member Governor's Salary Commission composed of the State Treasurer, three
9 members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members appointed by the
10 Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Governor's Salary Commission is currently
11 constituted as follows: Dereck E. Davis, State Treasurer; Jamar R. Brown, Esq.; Eleanor
12 M. Carey, Esq.; Bruce M. Plaxen, appointed by the President of the Senate; and Susanne
13 Brogan; Anissa M. Walker, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The
14 Commission elected Bruce M. Plaxen as Chair; and

15 WHEREAS, Under Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution, this Joint
16 Resolution may be amended to decrease, but not increase, the salaries recommended by the
17 Governor's Salary Commission. The salaries may not be decreased below their January
18 2026 levels. If the General Assembly fails to adopt a Joint Resolution in accordance with
19 Article II, Section 21A within 50 calendar days after introduction of this Joint Resolution,
20 the salaries recommended by the Governor's Salary Commission shall apply effective
21 January 20, 2027. If the General Assembly amends this Joint Resolution, the salaries
22 specified in the Joint Resolution, as amended, shall apply; and

23 WHEREAS, At the meetings conducted in December 2025, the Commission
24 evaluated gubernatorial compensation relative to a number of principles: changes in the
25 cost of living, maintenance of a reasonable differential between the Governor's salary and
26 of other major State officials in Maryland as well as Maryland county executives, and
27 acceptable comparability with salaries of the governors of other states. The Commission
28 selected tentative salaries for the two offices and solicited public views regarding its
29 proposals. Thereafter, the Commission made its final determinations which are presented



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1 in this Joint Resolution and discussed in the Commission's Report, dated January 2026;
2 now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That under Article
4 II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution, the annual salaries recommended by the
5 Governor's Salary Commission be adopted as follows, to be effective January 20, 2027, for
6 the 4-year term of office:

7 Governor:

8 For the first year, \$195,000;

9 For the second year, \$202,000;

10 For the third year, \$202,000; and

11 For the fourth year, \$210,000; and

12 Lieutenant Governor:

13 For the first year, \$175,000;

14 For the second year, \$180,000;

15 For the third year, \$180,000; and

16 For the fourth year, \$185,000; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
18 Legislative Services to the Governor of Maryland; the Lieutenant Governor; and the
19 Secretary of Budget and Management.