

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Andrew Goodell <goodell@windstream.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 1:49 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org
Subject: Salary Review Commission

Dear Elena:

In addition to debating twice against the Salary Review Commission and voting twice against it, I wrote to Speaker Heastie and requested a special session of the State Legislature to debate and vote on its recommendations. I did not receive the courtesy of a reply. Thereafter, I joined with several of my colleagues and filed a lawsuit that, *inter alia*, challenges the constitutionality of the Salary Review Commission. The lawsuit is pending.

The stipend provided to the minority leader pro tempore reflects the substantial additional work involved as the minority floor leader, which includes reviewing all legislation that makes it to the Assembly calendar, evaluating the existing laws, the proposed changes, the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed legislation, background research and analysis, the positions of individuals and groups that would be affected by the proposed legislation, and the details of the actual bill language. Working with Assemblyman Ed Ra, typically over the weekend or in the evening, we would then decide which bills were noncontroversial and could go directly to a vote, and which bills needed to be laid-aside for further questions or debate. We then made arrangements to debate the laid-aside bills. I estimate that I personally debated 30-40% of the bills that were laid aside. So far this year, there were 464 bills that went through the normal committee process and another 704 bills that went through the Rules Committee, for a total of 1,168 bills. There were also several resolutions and other legislative matters that were reviewed.

The floor leader also is responsible for helping coordinate the smooth operation of floor activities, including parliamentary procedures, maintaining appropriate decorum, coordinating introductions and announcements, and a myriad of practical issues. We also hold special legislative briefings for all the new members and for all members for controversial or complex legislation, meet often with Democrat colleagues regarding proposed amendments or debate issues, and assist as needed with legislative issues involving our caucus members.

I hope that this explanation is helpful.

Best regards,

Andrew Goodell