



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
INITIATIVE PETITIONS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

## Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions

Rep. Alice H. Peisch  
House Chair

Sen. Cindy F. Friedman  
Senate Chair

### UPDATED HEARING NOTICE

**Date of Hearing:** ~~Tuesday, March 3, 2026~~ **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**Time:** 11:00 AM-1:30 PM

**Location:** A-1 and streamed virtual

The Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions will conduct a hearing in Room A-1, on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on ballot initiative NO. 25-37 An Act to reform and regulate legislative stipends (House No. 5010).

The Joint Committee will hear invited testimony from subject matter experts, proponents, and opponents. The public is invited to participate in this hearing. Advanced registration to present in-person oral testimony is required of anyone other than those invited. Those wishing to register to testify may do so by emailing Mollie Cecconi at [Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov](mailto:Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov). The deadline to register is **Monday, March 16th at 12 PM**. Please include your name, address, whether you support or oppose the question, and whether your testimony is on behalf of yourself or an organization. Participation will be limited as the portion of the hearing dedicated to public testimony is scheduled for 30 minutes. Chairs will limit testimony of the public to 2 minutes per speaker.

Should more people register than time can accommodate, they will be directed to submit written testimony. Written testimony may be submitted by mail to the Special Committee on Initiative Petitions at 24 Beacon Street, Room 235, Boston, MA 02133 or via email at [SpecialJointCommitteeonInitiativePetitions@malegislature.gov](mailto:SpecialJointCommitteeonInitiativePetitions@malegislature.gov). The deadline to submit written testimony is **Saturday, March 21st at 5:00 PM**.

At the discretion of the Chairs and per committee rules, written testimony received by the committee will be made publicly available. The committee may limit availability or redact testimony that includes sensitive personal information, information about minors, or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

The livestream of this hearing will be available on the Legislature's website [here](#).

You may contact Committee staff with any questions at [Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov](mailto:Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov) or [Elizabeth.Berman@masenate.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Berman@masenate.gov).

Bill No.	Title
H5010	An Act to reform and regulate legislative stipends.

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chairs per Committee rules.

# Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions

## Bill Summary

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**BILL NUMBER** House, No. 5010

**TITLE** An Act to reform and regulate legislative stipends

**HEARING DATE** Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

### **SUMMARY**

#### SUMMARY OF NO. 25-37

This proposed law would change the method for calculating stipends paid to certain state legislators on top of their base salaries.

Under the proposed law, legislators would receive stipends, subject to appropriation, based on their leadership positions and/or committee membership. The Senate President and Speaker of the House (Group 1) would receive a stipend of up to 75% of their base salaries. The floor leaders of the two largest parties in each house of the legislature and the chairs of each house's ways and means committee (Group 2) would receive a stipend of up to 50% of their base salaries. The assistant and second assistant floor leaders of the two largest parties in each house, the third assistant floor leaders of the minority party in each house, and the vice chairs and ranking minority members of each house's ways and means committee (Group 3) and the chairs of eligible committees (Group 4) would receive a stipend of up to 33% of their base salaries. Legislators who are not in Groups 1-4 who are members of an eligible committee would receive a stipend of up to 20% of their base salaries. A committee would be "eligible" under the proposed law if it was established by the joint rules of the House and Senate and had more than 50 bills referred to it before March 1 of the first year of the legislative session.

The proposed law would provide a further 20% stipend to three categories of senators: (1) any senator in Group 2 or Group 3 who is a member of one or more eligible committees, (2) any senator in Group 4 who is a member of more than one eligible committee, or (3) any senator not in Groups 1-4 who is a member of more than four eligible committees.

Under the proposed law, no senator could receive a stipend for more than two positions, and no representative could receive a stipend for more than one position.

This proposed law would also establish various terms and conditions for the payment of legislative compensation. A Group 4 leader would receive 50% of the leader's stipend in biweekly paychecks; the leader would receive the other 50% in the last paycheck of the year if the leader's eligible committee had achieved compliance that year. Under the proposed law, "compliance" would mean that, on or before the first Monday in December (in the first year of the legislative session) or on or before the last Friday in May (in the second year of the session), an eligible committee had (1) held a public hearing and public mark-up session on each bill referred to it before a specified cutoff date and (2) approved all of its reports by a majority vote at a public meeting with a quorum present. A Group 1-3 leader would receive 50% of the leader's stipend in biweekly paychecks; the leader would receive the other 50%, multiplied by the percentage of eligible committees achieving compliance in that year, in the last paycheck of the year. The proposed law would require the House and Senate clerks to jointly certify compliance and to calculate the compliance percentage each legislative year. Except as otherwise provided, legislators would receive their compensation on a biweekly basis.

Legislators who served in a qualifying position for less than the full biennial session would receive prorated stipends. The proposed law would take effect on January 6, 2027.