Item: 6C
Date: 11/17/26



Resolution 2026-14-PT:

Establishing Commissioner Salary & Per Diem Compensation and Superseding Resolutions 2013-05 and 2021-20-PT

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Port of Tacoma Commission Meeting

Date: November 17, 2026

Port of Tacoma

People. Partnership. Performance.

Action Requested

Request Commission approval of Resolution 2026-14-PT - Establishing Commissioner Salary and Per Diem Compensation and Superseding Resolutions 2013-05 and 2021-20-PT

Legal Background

- RCW 53.12.260(1) authorizes a per diem with an annual monetary cap that also adjusts for inflation; and RCW 53.12.260(2) authorizes a salary for Commissioners that adjusts for inflation every five years.
- RCW 53.12.260(3) permits the Commission to establish its own compensation in lieu of the fixed statutory amounts.
- Article XI, Section 8 of the Constitution prohibits municipal officers from increasing their compensation during a term of office.

Background – Current Compensation

- In 2013, the Commission adopted Resolution 2013-05, which set the Commission's compensation as permitted by RCW 53.12.260(3). That resolution adopted an annual salary of $21,600 and per diem at the rate permitted by RCW 53.12.260(1), indexed for inflation. Also in 2013, the Port of Seattle Commission adopted Resolution 3678, which matched Port of Seattle Commissioners' salaries to those of state legislators.
- In 2021, the Commission adopted Resolution 2021-20-PT in 2021 to maintain the compensation then in effect for all Commissioners.

Background – Current Compensation

- As of January 1, 2024, Commissioners currently receive $30,624 per year. Commissioners also receive a per diem of $161 per day, with an annual cap of $19,320.
- In 2023, the Port of Seattle adopted Resolution 3811, which made Commissioners' per diem equal to that of state legislators for a maximum of 205 days per year.

Background – Current Compensation

- Given the growth of the Port of Tacoma and increased responsibilities involved in governing the Northwest Seaport Alliance, Commissioners must attend more meetings and events in service of the Port of Tacoma.
- Commissioners now typically exhaust their annual per diem by August, roughly two-thirds of the way through the calendar year.

Summary of Proposed Res. 2026-14-PT

- Re-adopts the same salary Commissioners already receive of $30,624, which increases every five years according to OFM's inflationary adjustment pursuant to RCW 53.12.260(4).
- Establishes a per diem equal to the amount set by RCW 53.12.260(1) including current adjustments, which is the existing $161, but changes the maximum amount of per diem allowed to 205 days per year, the same as the Port of Seattle. This also adjusts for inflation every five years per the statute.

Summary of Proposed Res. 2026-14-PT

- Consistent with Constitutional requirements, specifies that changes in Resolution 2026-14-PT and future inflationary adjustments to salary and per diem will not take effect for any sitting Commissioner until he or she begins a new term of office.
- Repeals previous Port of Tacoma salary and compensation resolutions except to extent previous resolutions apply to currently sitting Commissioners.

Action Requested

Request Commission approval of Resolution 2026-14-PT - Establishing Commissioner Salary and Per Diem Compensation and Superseding Resolutions 2013-05 and 2021-20-PT.



Thank You

Questions & Discussion

Port of Tacoma

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