

STATE ASSOCIATION OF
WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

March 25, 1965

COPY

Mr. Van E. Nutley, President
Washington State Association of
Irrigation Districts
P. O. Box 810
Sunnyside, Washington

Dear Mr. Nutley:

In response to your inquiry of March 15, 1965, concerning the recently passed House Bill No. 52 (Chapter 16, Laws of 1965), which increases Irrigation District Commissioners compensation from \$10 to \$25 per day, please be advised that Article 2, Section 25 of the State Constitution, would appear to prohibit a change of an elected official's salary during the term.

"The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, employee, servant, or contractor entered into, nor shall the compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office. Nothing in this section shall prevent increase in pensions after such pensions shall have been granted."

Therefore, the present commissioners would not benefit under the new statute until they complete their present term. The new rate will become effective when the new terms are established by election.

All legislation properly approved becomes law on June 9, unless it carries an emergency clause.

Trusting the foregoing is of assistance to you,

Yours very truly,

ROBERT V. GRAHAM, State Auditor

By

Adrian Webster
Chief Examiner

JFL:ees