

ASSESSORS: Laws of Missouri 1931, page 376, did not increase compensation of assessors then in office.

11-15
November 13, 1935.



Mr. C. W. Blakeley
Bosworth, Missouri

Dear Sir:

This Department is in receipt of your letter of October 30, requesting an opinion as to the following state of facts:

"I would appreciate your opinion on the act passed by the Assembly of May in 1931 whereby they raised the scale of pay for assessors from twenty-five cents to thirty-five cents on personal lists.

I would like to know whether the assessors already in office would be entitled to the increase in pay?"

In 1931 the General Assembly of the State of Missouri passed the following act (Laws of Missouri 1931, page 376):

"He shall receive, as compensation for his services, thirty-five cents for each list taken by him; and for each tract of land or town lot assessed by him, and properly entered in the township land book, he shall receive ten cents, one-half to be paid by the county and one-half by the state, as now provided by law: Provided, that all the personal property listed belonging to any one individual or company, or firm, shall

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constitute only one list, and all the land owned by the same person in any one section, shall constitute but one tract, and all the land owned by the same person in any one block shall constitute but one lot, as to compensation."

Article XIV, Section 8 of the Constitution of the State of Missouri provides:

"The compensation or fees of no State, county or municipal officer shall be increased during his term of office; nor shall the term of any office be extended for a longer period than that for which such officer was elected or appointed."

CONCLUSION.

In view of the foregoing it is the opinion of this Department that the Act of the General Assembly passed in 1931 (Laws of Missouri 1931, page 376), in view of the Constitution of the State of Missouri, did not increase the compensation of assessors then in office.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. HOFFMAN, Jr.,
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED:

ROY McKITTRICK
Attorney General

JWH:MM