

While the Governor is out of state, the Lieutenant Governor is Acting Governor. If the Lieutenant Governor is also out of state, the President Pro Tempore of the Mississippi State Senate is Acting Governor. The Office of the Governor tracks the Governor's time out of state by the hour. The Lieutenant Governor is paid for the hours as Acting Governor by the Office of the Governor. The wage for Acting Governor is calculated by taking the difference between the salaries of the two offices and dividing by the number of hours in the year.

The Governor's scheduler will notify, in writing, the Lieutenant Governor's office of the Governor's plans to travel out of state. The notification will come in advance of the scheduled trip, to allow the Lieutenant Governor's office to respond, in writing, with confirmation of the Lieutenant Governor's plans during the scheduled time of the Governor's trip. If the Lieutenant Governor is also out of state during any of the scheduled time, the Lieutenant Governor's office will notify the Governor's scheduler, in writing, to allow the scheduler to notify the President Pro Tempore of the scheduled times.

The Office of the Governor will compile the number of hours the Governor was out of state and confirm the number of hours with the Lieutenant Governor's office and the President Pro Tempore. Upon this confirmation, the Office of the Governor will issue payment to the Lieutenant Governor and President Pro Tempore for the number of confirmed hours served as Acting Governor. Previous administrations have performed this duty every six months or yearly, depending on an agreement reached between the Office of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. Monthly checks were found to be inadequate due to the usual low number of hours per month.

The Office of the Governor calculates a gross salary amount. Federal and state deductions are subtracted with the information provided by the Lieutenant Governor and President Pro Tempore. Regular state retirement is subtracted for the gross amount, however special legislative retirement is not subtracted. PERS has explained the legislative retirement is not subtracted due to the fact that the person was performing an executive duty not a legislative duty.

The formula used to calculate the hourly rate for the Acting Governor for the Lieutenant Governor is as follows:

$$24 \text{ hours/day} \times 366 \text{ days/year} = 8784 \text{ hours/year}$$

$$\text{Governor's salary} = \$101,800$$

$$\text{Lieutenant Governor's salary} = \$60,000$$

$$\text{Difference} = \$41,800$$

$$\$41,800 / 8784 \text{ hours} = \$4.76 \text{ per hour} - \text{Pay rate for Lieutenant Governor serving as Governor}$$

(During 2000 the number of days used to calculate the hourly rate will be 366, due to the fact the year 2000 is a leap year. Subsequent years will be calculated on 365 days, resulting in a \$4.77 per hour rate.)