

GOVERNORS

TABLE 4.6
State Cabinet Systems

State or other jurisdiction	Authorization for cabinet system				Criteria for membership				Number of members in cabinet (including governor)	Frequency of cabinet meetings	Open cabinet meetings
	State statute	State constitution	Governor created	Tradition in state	Appointed to specific office (a)	Elected to specified office (a)	Gubernatorial appointment regardless of office				
Alabama	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	23	Quarterly	...
Alaska	★	★	...	...	★	...	★	17	Gov.'s discretion	★
Arizona	...	...	★	...	★	...	★	37	Quarterly	...
Arkansas	...	...	★	...	★	...	...	40	Quarterly	...
California	...	★	★	...	★	...	★	11	Every two weeks	...	
Colorado	...	★	★	...	★	...	★	21	Bi-monthly	...	
Connecticut	★(k)	...	...	...	...	...	★	29	Gov.'s discretion	...
Delaware	★	...	...	...	★	...	★	17	Gov.'s discretion	...
Florida	★	★	...	...	...	★	...	4	Approx. 1-2 per month	★
Georgia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...
Hawaii	★	★	...	...	★	...	★	43	Bi-monthly	...
Idaho	★	★	...	...	...	...	★	39	Gov.'s discretion	...
Illinois (o)	★	...	★	...	...	...	★	65	Gov.'s discretion	(b)
Indiana	...	...	★	...	...	...	★	16	Bi-monthly	...
Iowa	★	★	★	★	★	...	...	30	Monthly	...
Kansas	...	★	...	...	...	...	★	15	Bi-weekly	...
Kentucky	...	★	★	...	★	...	★	13	Quarterly	...	
Louisiana	★	...	★	★	★	...	...	16	Monthly	...
Maine	...	...	...	★	...	...	★	16	Monthly	...
Maryland	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	25	Every other week	...
Massachusetts	...	★	...	...	★	...	...	11	Weekly	...
Michigan	★	★	★	...	★	★	(e)	22	Gov.'s discretion	...	
Minnesota	...	...	★	...	★	...	...	25	Quarterly	...
Mississippi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...
Missouri	★	...	...	★	★	...	...	17	Gov.'s discretion	...
Montana	★	★	...	...	★	...	...	19	Monthly	★
Nebraska	...	...	★	★	★	...	★	30	Monthly	...
Nevada	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...	21	At call of the governor	...
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...
New Jersey	★	★	...	...	★	...	...	24	Gov.'s discretion	...
New Mexico	★	★	...	★	★	...	...	31	Gov.'s discretion	...
New York	...	...	...	★	...	...	★	75	Gov.'s discretion	...
North Carolina (f)	...	...	★	...	...	...	★	11	Weekly	(n)
North Dakota	...	...	★	...	...	...	★	17	Monthly	★
Ohio	...	...	...	★	★	...	...	27	Gov.'s discretion	...
Oklahoma	...	★	...	...	...	...	★	16 (h)	Monthly	...
Oregon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...
Pennsylvania	★	★	★	...	★(j)	...	★	27	Gov.'s discretion	★	
Rhode Island	...	...	★	★	...	...	★(l)	22	Gov.'s discretion	★(m)
South Carolina	★	★	...	...	★(i)	...	...	18	Monthly	★
South Dakota	★	★	...	...	★	...	...	20	Monthly	...
Tennessee	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	31	Monthly	...
Texas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...
Utah	...	★	★	...	★	...	★	24	Monthly, weekly during legislative session	...	
Vermont	★	★	...	...	★	...	...	12	Gov.'s discretion	...
Virginia	...	...	★	★(j)	★	...	★	16	Weekly	...
Washington	...	...	★	...	★	...	...	25	Monthly	...
West Virginia	...	...	★	★	★	...	...	17	Weekly	...
Wisconsin	★	★	...	...	★	...	...	17	Gov.'s discretion	★
Wyoming	...	...	★	...	...	...	★	44	Quarterly	...
American Samoa	★	★	...	...	★	...	★	16	Gov.'s discretion	★
Guam	...	...	★	...	★	...	...	55	Bi-monthly	...
CNMI*	...	★	...	...	★	...	...	17	Gov.'s discretion	★
Puerto Rico	★	★	...	...	...	...	★	10 (c)	Every 6 weeks	...
U.S. Virgin Islands	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	21	Monthly	★

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 4.6
State Cabinet Systems (continued)

Sources: The Council of State Governments survey of governors' offices, September 2017.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

★ –Yes

... –No

N/A –Not available

- (a) Individual is a member by virtue of election or appointment to a cabinet-level position.
- (b) Certain cabinet meetings are open to the public and media.
- (c) The Constitutional Cabinet has 10 members including the governor. There are other members of the Cabinet provided by statute.
- (d) No formal cabinet system. In Nevada, the cabinet is traditionally comprised of Directors, Chairpersons and leaders of Nevada's top agencies, departments, institutions and the National Guard, in addition to the Lt. Governor.
- (e) Membership determined by governor. Some officers formally designated as cabinet member by executive order.
- (f) The Governor's cabinet consists of 10 department heads who have responsibility for the majority of the executive branch. They are appointed by the governor and report to the governor.

The Council of State exists as a separate body and is composed independently elected statewide officials who oversee certain areas of the executive branch. While the Council of State is provided for in the Constitution and state statutes, the cabinet is created by the governor.

- (g) Frequency of meetings may fluctuate with Governor's schedule.
- (h) State statute allows for 15 cabinet members. With the Governor included there are 16 members.
- (i) With the consent of the senate.
- (j) While there is no specific state statute that establishes the cabinet system, the state code makes repeated references to cabinet secretaries and sets forth the duties of each secretary and the agencies assigned to the secretary.
- (k) Governor's cabinet is specified in statute, but no longer in use. Governor directs department heads through commissioners' meetings and subject matter groups called clusters.
- (l) At the discretion of the governor.
- (m) Varies by meeting.
- (n) Council of State, but not cabinet meetings, are open to the public.
- (o) Agency directors are provided by statute. Governor may create and appoint other cabinet-level positions.