

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

**Table 4.13**  
**LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS: POWERS AND DUTIES**

State or other jurisdiction	Presides over Senate	Appoints committees	Breaks roll-call ties	Assigns bills	Authority for governor to assign duties	Member of governor's cabinet or advisory body	Serves as acting governor when governor out of state
Alabama	★	★ (a)	★	★	...	...	★ (b)
Alaska	...	...	...	...	★	★	★ (c)
Arizona	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
Arkansas	★	...	★	★	...	...	★
California	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Colorado	...	...	...	...	★	★	★
Connecticut	★	...	★	...	...	...	★
Delaware (e)	★	...	★	★	...	★	★
Florida	...	...	...	...	★	...	...
Georgia	★	★ (a)	...	★	★	...	...
Hawaii	...	...	...	...	★	...	★
Idaho	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Illinois	...	...	...	...	★	★	(j)
Indiana (f)	★	...	★	...	★	★	...
Iowa	...	(a)	...	...	★	(l)	(j)
Kansas	...	...	...	...	★	★	★
Kentucky	...	...	...	...	★	★	...
Louisiana	...	...	...	...	★	...	★
Maine	...	...	...	(g)	...	...	...
Maryland	...	...	...	...	★	★	★
Massachusetts	...	...	★	★	★	★	★
Michigan	★	...	★	...	★	★	★
Minnesota	...	...	...	...	★	★	★
Mississippi	★	★ (a)	★	★	...	...	★
Missouri	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Montana	...	...	...	...	★	★	★ (b)
Nebraska	★ (h)	...	★ (i)	...	★	...	★
Nevada	★	...	★	...	...	★	★ (j)
New Hampshire	...	...	...	(g)	...	...	...
New Jersey	...	...	...	(g)	...	...	...
New Mexico	★	...	★	...	★	★	★
New York	★	...	★	...	★	★	★
North Carolina	★	...	★	...	★	★ (k)	★
North Dakota	★	...	★	★	★	★	★
Ohio	...	...	...	...	(l)	★	(m)
Oklahoma	★	...	★	...	★	★	★
Oregon	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
Pennsylvania	★	...	★ (i)	★	★	★	...
Rhode Island	★	...	★	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	★	...	★	★	...	...	★ (j)
South Dakota	★	(n)	★	★	★	★	(o)
Tennessee	...	...	...	(g)	...	...	...
Texas	★	★ (a)	(a)	(g)	...	...	★
Utah	...	...	...	...	★	★	...
Vermont	★	★ (a)	★	★	...	...	★
Virginia	★	...	★	...	★	★	...
Washington	★	...	...	...	★	...	★
West Virginia (r)	★	★	...	★	...	...	...
Wisconsin	...	...	...	...	★	★	(p)
Wyoming	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
American Samoa	...	...	...	...	★	★	★
Guam*	(h)	...	...	...	★	★	★
No. Mariana Islands*	...	...	...	...	★	(q)	★
Puerto Rico	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
U.S. Virgin Islands*	...	...	...	...	★ (l)	★	★

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2002 and state constitutions and statutes. Information indicated by an \* is from *The Book of the States*, 2000-2001.

Key:

★— Provision for responsibility.  
... — No provision for responsibility.

(a) Appoints all standing committees. Alabama—appoints some special committees; Georgia—appoints all senate members of conference committees and all senators who serve on interim study committees; Iowa— appoints some special com-

mittees; Mississippi—appoints members of conference, joint and special committees; Texas— Has the authority to appoint all committees and assign all bills, but that authority is pursuant to Senate rules of standing subcommittees, conference, special, joint legislative and temporary committees; Vermont—appoints all committees as a member of the Committee on Committees.

(b) After 20 days absence. In Montana, after 45 days.

(c) Alaska constitution identifies two types of absence from state; (1) temporary absence during which the lieutenant serves as acting governor; and (2) continuous absence for a period of six months, after which the governor's office is

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declared vacant and lieutenant governor succeeds to the office.

(d) No lieutenant governor; secretary of state is next in line of succession to governorship.

(e) Constitutional duty includes President of the Board of Pardons.

(f) By statute, lieutenant governor serves as Director of Department of Commerce and Commissioner of Agriculture.

(g) No lieutenant governor; senate president or speaker is next in line of succession to governorship. In Tennessee, speaker of the senate bears the additional statutory title of "lieutenant governor."

(h) Unicameral legislative body. In Guam, that body elects own presiding officer.

(i) Except on final enactments.

(j) Only in emergency situations.

(k) Member of Council of State per state constitution. Also sits on Governor's

Cabinet, by invitation.

(l) Presides over cabinet meetings in absence of governor.

(m) Only if governor asks the lieutenant to serve in that capacity, in the former's absence.

(n) Conference committees.

(o) Only in event of governor's continuous absence from state.

(p) Only in situations of an absence which prevents governor from discharging duties which need to be undertaken prior to his return.

(q) The Lieutenant Governor is an automatic member of the Governor's cabinet

(r) In West Virginia, the President of the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor are one in the same. The legislature provided in statute the title of Lieutenant Governor upon the Senate President. The Senate President serves 2 year terms, elected by the Senate on the first day of the first session of each two year legislative term.