

The office of Lieutenant Governor is one of the oldest state offices in the history of our nation. It was first established in the colonial charters of Connecticut and Massachusetts. All of the original 13 states made constitutional provisions for a Lieutenant Governor.

At that time, the primary purpose of the office was to provide a successor to the Governor should the position become vacant. The succession responsibility was often supplemented with the additional duty of presiding over the upper house of the state legislature.

Minnesota was one of the states that originally adopted both of these provisions. The latter was omitted from the state constitution by amendment in 1972. We'll further define the duties of the Minnesota office.

Currently 45 states and two territories elect on a statewide basis, an official who would assume the governorship in case of a vacancy. In 30 states that same person presides over the state senate.

During the course of this treatise we will dwell primarily on those persons who have held the office in Minnesota and the changes in its responsibilities.

Since the end of world war two there have been profound changes in our nation. These changes have been reflected, in many states, in the responsibilities of the Lt. Governor. As state executive burdens have grown in dealing with the complexities of state government, Lt. Governors have been called on to assume a variety of additional duties.

Many Lt. Governors have found themselves with expanded legislative responsibilities, while others were given increased duties with various commissions and boards. Still others became involved in both legislative and administrative functions.

In Oklahoma the Lt. Governor is in charge of Tourism and Recreation. By statute Indiana's Lt. Governor is both the director of the Department of Commerce and Commissioner of Agriculture. Furthermore, Indiana's Governor has appointed the Lt. Governor Director of the State Planning Services Agency which oversees a variety of areas including industrial and rural development, tourism, economic development planning, and the state energy office to name a few.

In Illinois the Lt. Governor is involved in such areas as minority and elderly affairs and he serves as chairman of the Department of aging advisory committee. He also coordinates the Governor's programs for the elderly and Latin populations.

Other states have chosen to include the Lt. Governor more directly in the area of intergovernmental relations. Both Kansas and Massachusetts have assigned their Lt. Governors broad responsibilities as liaison between federal, state and local governments. Presently in Minnesota, Governor Rudy Perpich has given the Lt. Governor responsibility over state-federal and local relations.

In Colorado the Lt. Governor is the executive ombudsman for the state and is active in the manpower and corrections areas. He also prepares the state tax plan for consideration by the legislature.

Until 1972 the office of Lt. Governor in Minnesota was much as it had been envisioned in colonial times. Whoever held the office had but two responsibilities. The first was to succeed to the Governor's office should a vacancy occur; and the second was to preside over the state senate which met once every two years. In 1972 the voters of Minnesota were asked to approve an amendment to the state constitution which did several things. It allowed for the Governor and Lt. Governor to run as a team; it removed the Lt. Governor's duty of presiding over the senate and it provided that the Lt. Governor's salary be set by law. As a result of this constitutional amendment, the office of Lt. Governor in Minnesota became a full time job with duties to be outlined by Executive order of the Governor and by statute. From 1973 til 1976, two executive orders relating to the duties of the Lt. Governor were issued.

Executive order no. 53 issued January 12, 1973, outlined the following duties for the Lt. Governor.

1. Coordination and direction of the loaned executives action program.
2. Coordination and direction of the implementation of the provisions of the Federal Rural Development Act, including serving as the Governor's representative on the Rural Development Council.
3. Chairman of the State Human Services Council.
4. Coordinate and develop a systematic state program to preserve and enhance the aesthetic environment of the state.

By state statute, the Lt. Governor was directed to:

1. Assume an ex-officio membership on the State Arts Council
2. Assume ex-officio membership on the Indian Affairs Commission.
3. Membership on the State Employees Insurance Benefit Board
4. Membership on the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Commission.

Further the Governor directed that the Lt. Governor shall serve as the Governor's liaison officer to several other boards, agencies and commissions.

On June 25, 1976, Governor Anderson issued his second executive order pertaining to the office of the Lt. Governor. Executive order #127 ordered the following: