



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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May, 2019

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #480

### Operations Support (Lieutenant Governor)

[LFB 2019-21 Budget Summary: Page 265, #2]

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#### CURRENT LAW

Base funding for the Office of Lieutenant Governor is \$394,400 GPR annually with 5.0 GPR positions.

#### GOVERNOR

Provide \$54,900 GPR in 2019-20 and \$73,200 GPR in 2020-21 and 1.0 GPR position annually to provide operational support to the Lieutenant Governor.

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Office of Lieutenant Governor has a base budget of \$394,400 GPR with the following unclassified positions: (a) Lieutenant Governor; (b) Chief of Staff; (c) legislative director/policy development; (d) operations director; and (e) executive assistant/logistics.

2. The statutory duties of the Lieutenant Governor are as follows: (a) to serve as acting Governor when a vacancy in the Office of Governor occurs; (b) employ within the limits of the Lieutenant Governor's budget "such staff as he or she deems necessary outside the classified service for such period and upon such terms as the lieutenant governor determines"; and (c) additional duties as are assigned by the Governor in writing.

3. Statutorily, the additional duties of the Office may include: (a) serving as the Governor's representative on any statutory commission, board or committee on which the Governor is entitled to membership (if designated, the Lieutenant Governor performs in the place of the Governor and has

all authority and responsibility granted by law to the Governor with regard to such membership); (b) serving as the Governor's representative on any nonstatutory committee created by the Governor; (c) coordinating state services and programs (the designation must be in writing, and specify to state agencies the nature, areas and extent of such designated authority); and (d) serving as the Governor's representative on any intergovernmental body created for the purpose of maintaining relationships with the federal government, state government, regional agencies or local government.

4. Further, statutes specify that the Lieutenant Governor may: (a) accept gifts, grants, bequests or devises, or federal moneys authorized by the Governor, to be used for the authorized functions of the Office of Lieutenant Governor; and (b) conduct conferences or prepare and sell publications or promotional materials related to the authorized functions of the Office of Lieutenant Governor.

5. In the 2003-05 biennial budget, staffing for the Office of Lieutenant Governor was reduced from 7.75 GPR positions to 4.0 GPR positions. Staffing levels for the Office remained at 4.0 positions until the 2017-19 biennium when an additional 1.0 GPR position was provided for logistical support. In the 2017-19 biennial budget recommendation to the Legislature, the Governor recommended an additional position for the Office of Lieutenant Governor. On June 15, 2017, the Governor's recommendation was adopted by the Joint Committee on Finance. The additional position was approved as part of 2017 Act 59.

6. The bill recommends that Office staffing increase by an additional position beginning in 2019-20. According to the administration, the current operations director position addresses both operational activities of the Office (for example, scheduling, public records retention/requests, and bills payable) and various administrative duties ("the role of office receptionist, constituent caseworker, and intern manager"). The administration indicates that the "workload has proved unsustainable given the intensive day-to-day workload of scheduling for the Lt. Governor and managing day-to-day office operations."

7. The increased position authorization is intended to divide current duties of the operations director. Given that statutes allow the Lieutenant Governor to employ such staff as deemed necessary for operation of the Office, the Committee could approve the recommendation. [Alternative 1] Total staffing as provided under the bill would remain less than 2002-03 base level staffing.

8. Alternatively, it could be argued that the Office received increased staffing under 2017 Act 59. As such, an additional position may not be necessary. Therefore, the Committee could maintain current staffing. [Alternative 2]

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Provide \$54,900 GPR in 2019-20 and \$73,200 GPR in 2020-21 and 1.0 GPR position annually to provide operational support to the Lieutenant Governor.

ALT 1	Change to Base		Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$128,100	1.00	\$0	0.00

2. Take no action.

ALT 2	Change to Base		Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$0	0.00	-\$128,100	- 1.00

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