

tive in 1970. The same kind of amendment has passed the Wisconsin legislature once, but must be passed again before going to the voters.

Many states have recently increased the salary of the lieutenant governor, but salaries range from a low of \$1,200 in Idaho to a high of \$32,500 in Pennsylvania. While most states pay their lieutenant governors on a yearly basis, several states pay on a per diem basis. Alabama's lieutenant governor, for example, receives \$12 per diem, and \$20 per diem during the legislative sessions. A number of states provide their lieutenant governors with expenses. Iowa's lieutenant governor, for example, receives \$60 per diem during the legislative sessions, plus \$5,000 expenses. Several states pay their lieutenant governor only for the legislative session. In Mississippi, e.g., he receives \$3,000 for each session of the legislature; South Dakota's lieutenant governor receives \$2,400 per annum when the legislature is in session, but only \$1,000 per annum when there are no legislative sessions.¹⁷

BROADENING THE DUTIES OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

By assuming new duties, the lieutenant governor could be a greater help to the governor and increase the importance of the office as an executive rather than a legislative position. The lieutenant governor could assume some of the governor's ceremonial duties, saving the governor valuable time. It has been suggested that "the average citizen does not differentiate between the governor and the lieutenant governor when thinking of the prestige or importance of the office."¹⁸

¹⁷ BOOK OF THE STATES.

¹⁸ Nispel, *supra* note 15, at 5.

Thus, the lieutenant governor's assuming some of these ceremonial duties would not cost the governor future support at the polls. Utilizing the governor in ceremonial roles cannot be legislated, but depends upon a good working relationship between the governor and lieutenant governor. If the governor and lieutenant governor are elected jointly, and function well as a team, they should be able to arrange for the assumption of some ceremonial duties by the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor could also serve as a liaison between the governor and the state senate or the majority party caucus.

Several students of government have criticized the office of lieutenant governor. One critic believes that the omission of the office "seems to occasion no inconvenience. After all, the duties of the lieutenant governor are unimportant."¹⁹

The value of having a lieutenant governor seems to outweigh the criticisms, however. The lieutenant governor is a popularly elected official who provides a successor if the governor dies, resigns, or is disabled. The lieutenant governor can be an impartial presiding officer for the state senate. The office of lieutenant governor provides valuable political experience for higher public office.

The lieutenant governor can also serve the state in a variety of administrative capacities. If the governor and lieutenant governor are elected jointly, and work smoothly as a team, the lieutenant governor also can assume ceremonial duties, act as a liaison for the governor with the state legislature, and in general, serve as the state's second highest executive officer.

¹⁹ MACDONALD, *supra* note 10, at 177.