

Maine Governor Compensation

Salary:

- Salary of \$70,000 (since 1985)
- Ranks last of 50 US states (see attached state by state comparison).

Retirement Benefits:

- Any former Governor and any surviving spouse of a deceased Governor or former Governor is entitled, upon application and upon reaching age 60, to a retirement allowance.
- The amount of the retirement allowance is 3/8 of the annual salary being paid the current Governor on the date the former Governor reaches age 60 or leaves office, whichever comes later.
- A Governor shall contribute 7.65% of earnable compensation to the Governor's Retirement Fund.

Expense Account:

- The account currently allows for \$7,500 in expenses per quarter, totaling \$30,000 per year.
- This account is not subject to audit.
- The expense account has been set at \$30,000 since at least FY 2007.
- In addition, there is an expense account for a Governor Elect, set at \$5,000.

Lodging and travel:

- Governor has an official residence
- Reimbursed for travel expenses, receives a travel allowance

Other Benefits

- A former Governor may accept as a personal gift from the State at the end of his final term the desk and chair used by that Governor as Governor.

QUESTIONS SENT TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE/ DAFS (answers expected prior to meeting)

Q1: Are the governor's expenses for meals, housing, travel, mileage, constituent services and all other expenses and allowances, paid out of the Governor's expense account?

See below.

Q2: How are these expenses paid? Please include any information about reimbursement rates for meals, housing, travel, mileage, constituent services and all other expenses and allowances, as well as information about which account(s) within the Governor's Office budget that the expenses are paid from.

There is an appropriation in 010-07A for the personnel and "all other" expenses related to the operational responsibilities of the Governor's Office.

Personnel expenses would include those employees responsible for constituent services.

All Other expenses would include costs related to technology, supplies, etc. as well as any costs related to travel by the Governor or his/her staff.

All Other expenses in the Governor's Office are processed like any other Executive Branch expense in accordance with statute and State's Administrative and Accounting Manual. This includes travel expenses, which should adhere to the guidance that may be found at:

<http://www.maine.gov/osc/administration/saam>

Included in the appropriation referred to above is \$30,000 designated for the Governor's Expense Account. Per Title 2, Chapter 1, section 2:

The "Governor's Expense Account", as heretofore established, shall be credited with such amounts as are appropriated by the Legislature therefor. This appropriation shall be available for expenditure by the Governor at his discretion. This account shall not be subject to audit, except as to total amount to be paid.

This amount is meant to cover discretionary expenses incurred as part of being the Governor of the State and performing the duties thereof, and not necessarily classified as "operational expenses of the office". This \$30,000 is paid in four equal quarterly installments.

Q3: How long has the Governors Expense account been set at \$30,000? Can you confirm the account coding for the expenses (\$7,500 per quarter) is 010-07A-016504-4991-1100?

We aren't sure. It has been \$30,000 at least as far back as the new Advantage system – 2008. Yes, confirmed.

Q4: What Health Benefits is the Governor entitled to? Retiree Health Benefits? A Governor, as an Executive Branch employee, would be eligible for the same benefits as an Executive Branch employee and would be required to contribute to health insurance based on their plan selection (employee only, employee and spouse, etc.). <https://www.maine.gov/bhr/oe/benefits/som-health-plan/premium-rates> .If the Governor is a retired state employee, he/she would receive health benefits via the Retiree Health Plan.

Q5: Are there any other benefits or forms of compensation the Governor is entitled to that the Commission should be aware of?

Title 2, Chapter 1, section 1-A does refer to a Retirement Allowance.

<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/2/title2sec1-A.html>