

SCOMM

#49:20



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RESEARCH AGENCY

Touch Y. State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3991

October 2, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ron Larson
ATTN: Linda Firestone
FROM: Brad Pierce *BP*
Legislative Analyst
RE: Legislative Salaries
Research Request 86-031

Your staff requested this office to do some follow-up [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] S.
In addition, we were asked to compare Alaska legislative salaries to those received by legislators in other states.

Alaska [REDACTED]

According to the FY 85 Association of Alaska School Boards survey of Alaska Teacher Salary and Benefits, the average teacher's salary is \$38,266 per year, or \$44,350 when all benefits are included. The state-wide average base salary is \$26,770 and the average top salary is \$48,789. Of the total of 7,039 full-time equivalent positions reported in the survey, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of Alaska Salaries

We contacted Brian Rogers, Director of the University Statewide Budget Office for information on salaries. According to Mr. Rogers, most university employees are not paid on a full-time basis. Many teachers work part-time and others are on 9-month contracts. The average annual salary for the 3,873 employees with permanent positions in the University system is \$33,374. There are [REDACTED]

Alaska [REDACTED] Salaries

The Alaska Railroad Corporation has 541 employees. [REDACTED]

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Alaska State Employees

During 1984, the 19,304 State employees in Alaska earned an average salary of \$32,403. There are 1,521 [REDACTED]

Other States

Differences in session length, interim responsibilities and in the philosophy of compensation for public service make it difficult to compare between legislative salaries in various states. Some states, including Alaska, pay their legislators on a straight salary basis. Other states pay salaries and per diem (often prorated to reflect the amount of travel time from an individual's district) and some states pay on a strictly per diem basis. [REDACTED]

We caution that the 1982 data used to compile these tables is for a particular legislative session and may not accurately reflect an average legislative year for any given state. For example, the Alaska legislature is now limited to a 120-day session which would raise their salary to \$400 per day and move it up to fourth in rank. In addition, the expenses used for states with per diem allowances are probably uniformly overestimated. Many states have some sort of voucher reimbursement policy. The per diem calculations used in these tables should be considered the maximum amount possible for each state.

Another method of ranking the Alaska Legislature pay scale with that in other states is to look at the ratio of total legislative salaries to the average teacher's salary in each state. In an attempt to correct for salary differences between states, we have also compared legislators salaries with the average salaries of teachers and state employees in each state. The attached [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Alaska ranks fifth when legislative salaries are compared to state employee wages.

The printouts attached to this memorandum give a fair description of how Alaska legislative salaries compare to those in other states. We hope we have provided sufficient information for your purposes. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions

BP

Attachments

RANK	STATE	1982		SESSION LENGTH	SPECIAL SESSION	1982	
		LEGISLATORS	SALARIES PER DIEM			TOTAL	SALARY
1		35,000	75	64	0	39,800	
2	New York	32,960	55	73	5	37,250	
3	Illinois	28,000	36	65	0	30,340	
4	Indiana	9,600	65	30	0	11,550	
5	Minnesota	18,500	36	34	23	20,552	
6		48,000	0	144	0	48,000	
7	Tennessee	8,308	66	32	0	10,420	326
8	New Jersey	25,000	0	76	1	25,000	325
9	Maryland	21,000	68	90	1	27,188	299
10	Oklahoma	20,000	35	86	0	23,010	268
11	Virginia	11,000	75	61	1	15,650	252
12	Georgia	7,200	59	40	6	9,914	216
13	Ohio	22,500	0	108	0	22,500	208
14	Missouri	15,000	35	70	19	18,115	204
15	Florida	12,000	50	67	19	16,300	190
16	Washington	13,750	44	90	7	16,018	186
17	Wisconsin	22,631	42	130	43	29,897	173
18	Iowa	13,700	30	104	0	16,820	162
19	South Carolina	10,000	50	90	0	14,500	161
20	Arkansas	7,500	44	66	0	10,404	158
21	Hawaii	13,650	20	99	2	15,670	155
22	California	28,110	62	257	56	47,516	152
23	South Dakota	3,200	50	35	0	4,950	141
24	Colorado	14,000	40	139	0	19,560	141
25	West Virginia	5,136	50	60	2	8,236	133
26	Massachusetts	30,000	50	364	0	48,200	132
27	Connecticut	10,500	0	63	27	10,500	117
28	Mississippi	8,100	44	96	16	13,028	116
29	North Carolina	6,936	50	127	5	13,536	103
30	Idaho	4,200	44	73	0	7,412	102
31	Alabama	4,800	65	105	29	13,510	101
32	Michigan	33,200		351	0	33,200	95
33	Arizona	15,000	40	103	177	26,200	94
34	Oregon	8,400	44	203	39	19,048	79
35	Louisiana		75	60	0	4,500	75
36	Kentucky		75	60	0	4,500	75
37	Delaware	12,255	0	170	1	12,255	72
38	Nebraska	4,800	0	60	7	4,800	72
39	Wyoming		60	20	0	1,200	60
40	Nevada		56	101	0	5,656	56
41	Kansas		50	66	0	3,400	50
42	Texas	7,200	0	140	8	7,200	49
43	Monte		45	50	0	2,385	45
44	Montana		45	70	0	4,320	45
45	Vermont		25	66	0	1,048	25
46	Utah		25	20	5	625	25
47	New Mexico		0	30	19	0	0
48	New Hampshire		0	49	10	0	0
49	Rhode Island		0	66	3	0	0
50	North Dakota			60	0	0	0

Average

15,570

Source 1984-1985 Book of the States

Prepared by the House Research Agency, October 1985

A RANKING OF LEGISLATORS' SALARIES TO STATE EMPLOYEES' SALARIES

RANK	STATE	1982		SESSION LENGTH	1982		1982	TOTAL	
		LEGISLATORS' SALARIES PER DIEM	PER DIEM		TOTAL SALARY	SALARY PER DAY	AVERAGE STATE EMPLOYEE SALARY	SALARY	
1		30,000	50	364	0	48,200	132	17,900	2.68
2		35,000	75	64	0	39,800	622	18,840	2.11
3		28,110	62	257	50	47,516	152	24,756	1.92
4		32,960	55	73	5	37,250	478	20,940	1.78
5		48,000	0	144	0	48,000	333	28,084	
6	Maryland	21,000	68	90	1	27,188	299	17,856	1.52
7	Illinois	28,000	36	65	0	30,340	467	20,808	1.46
8	Michigan	33,200		351	0	33,200	95	22,836	1.45
9	Wisconsin	22,631	42	130	43	29,897	173	20,592	1.45
10	Oklahoma	20,000	35	86	0	23,010	268	18,060	1.27
11	Arizona	15,000	40	103	177	26,200	94	21,360	1.23
12	New Jersey	25,000	0	76	1	25,000	325	20,568	1.22
13	Missouri	15,000	35	70	19	18,115	204	15,612	1.16
14	Ohio	22,500	0	108	0	22,500	208	20,040	1.12
15	Oregon	8,400	44	203	39	19,048	79	19,764	0.96
16	Colorado	14,000	40	139	0	19,560	141	20,760	0.94
17	Florida	12,000	50	67	19	16,300	190	17,628	0.92
18	Mississippi	8,100	44	96	16	13,028	116	14,292	0.91
19	Minnesota	18,500	36	34	23	20,552	361	22,944	0.90
20	Washington	13,750	44	90	7	18,018	186	20,856	0.86
21	Virginia	11,000	75	61	1	15,650	252	18,240	0.86
22	South Carolina	10,000	50	90	0	14,500	161	16,944	0.86
23	Iowa	13,700	30	104	0	16,820	162	19,860	0.85
24	North Carolina	6,936	50	127	5	13,536	103	16,800	0.81
25	Hawaii	13,650	20	99	2	15,670	155	19,740	0.79
26	Alabama	4,800	65	105	29	13,510	101	18,240	0.74
27	Delaware	12,255	0	170	1	12,255	72	17,172	0.71
28	Arkansas	7,500	44	66	0	10,404	158	16,332	0.64
29	Tennessee	8,308	66	32	0	10,420	326	17,712	0.59
30	Georgia	7,200	59	40	6	9,914	216	17,232	0.58
31	Connecticut	10,500	0	63	27	10,500	117	18,252	0.58
32	Indiana	9,600	65	30	0	11,550	385	20,664	0.56
33	West Virginia	5,136	50	60	2	8,236	133	15,264	0.54
34	Idaho	4,200	44	73	0	7,412	102	19,140	0.39
35	Texas	7,200	0	140	8	7,200	49	19,728	0.36
36	Nebraska	4,800	0	60	7	4,800	72	15,516	0.31
37	South Dakota	3,200	50	35	0	4,950	141	17,184	0.29
38	Louisiana	0	75	60	0	4,500	75	16,728	0.27
39	Kentucky	0	75	60	0	4,500	75	17,004	0.26
40	Nevada	0	56	101	0	5,656	56	22,404	0.25
41	Montana	0	45	90	6	4,320	45	20,388	0.21
42	Kansas	0	50	68	0	3,400	50	17,736	0.19
43	Maine	0	45	50	3	2,365	45	17,640	0.14
44	Vermont	0	28	66	0	1,848	28	18,036	0.10
45	Wyoming	0	60	20	0	1,200	60	22,500	0.05
46	Utah	0	25	20	5	625	25	18,936	0.03
47	New Mexico	0	0	30	19	0	0	17,676	0.00
48	New Hampshire	0	0	47	13	0	0	15,540	0.00
49	Rhode Island	0	0	66	3	0	0	19,140	0.00
50	North Dakota	0	0	60	0	0	0	19,392	0.00
Average						15,570		19,050	0.82

Source: 1984-1985 Book of the States

A RANKING OF STATE LEGISLATORS' SALARIES TO TEACHERS' SALARIES

RANK	STATE	1982			1982		1982/83	TOTAL	
		LEGISLATORS' SALARIES PER DIEM	SESSION LENGTH	SPECIAL SESSION	TOTAL SALARY	SALARY PER DAY	AVERAGE TEACHERS' SALARIES	LEGISLATOR SALARY/TEACHER SALARY	
1		30,000	50	364	0	48,200	132	19,000	2.54
2		28,110	62	257	56	47,516	152	23,555	2.02
3		35,000	75	64	0	39,800	622	21,000	1.90
4		32,960	55	73	5	37,250	478	25,100	1.48
5		22,631	42	130	43	29,697	173	20,940	1.43
6		48,000	0	144	0	48,000	333	33,953	
7	Arizona	15,000	40	103	177	26,200	94	18,849	1.39
8	Michigan	33,200		351	0	33,200	95	23,965	1.39
9	Illinois	28,000	36	65	0	30,340	467	22,618	1.34
10	Oklahoma	20,000	25	86	0	23,010	268	18,110	1.27
11	Maryland	21,000	68	90	1	27,188	299	22,786	1.19
12	New Jersey	25,000	0	76	1	25,000	325	21,642	1.16
13	Ohio	22,500	0	108	0	22,500	208	20,360	1.11
14	Missouri	15,000	35	70	19	18,115	204	17,726	1.02
15	Minnesota	18,500	36	34	23	20,552	361	22,296	0.92
16	Mississippi	8,100	44	96	16	13,028	116	14,285	0.91
17	Colorado	14,000	40	139	0	19,560	141	21,500	0.91
18	Iowa	13,700	30	104	0	16,820	162	18,709	0.90
19	South Carolina	10,000	50	90	0	14,500	161	16,380	0.89
20	Florida	12,000	50	67	19	16,300	190	18,538	0.88
21	Oregon	8,400	44	203	39	19,048	79	22,334	0.85
22	Virginia	11,000	75	61	1	15,650	252	18,707	0.84
23	Washington	13,750	44	90	7	18,018	186	23,413	0.77
24	North Carolina	6,936	50	127	5	13,536	103	17,836	0.76
25	Alabama	4,800	65	105	29	13,510	101	17,850	0.76
26	Arkansas	7,500	44	66	0	10,404	158	15,156	0.69
27	Hawaii	13,650	20	99	2	15,670	155	24,796	0.63
28	Tennessee	8,308	66	32	0	10,420	326	17,425	0.60
29	Delaware	12,255	0	170	1	12,255	72	20,665	0.59
30	Indiana	9,600	65	30	0	11,550	385	20,067	0.58
31	Georgia	7,200	59	40	6	9,914	216	17,412	0.57
32	Connecticut	10,500	0	63	27	10,500	117	20,300	0.52
33	West Virginia	5,136	50	60	2	8,236	133	17,370	0.47
34	Idaho	4,200	44	73	0	7,412	102	17,549	0.42
35	Texas	7,200	0	140	8	7,200	49	19,500	0.37
36	South Dakota	3,200	50	35	0	4,950	141	15,595	0.32
37	Nebraska	4,800	0	60	7	4,800	72	17,412	0.28
38	Nevada		56	101	0	5,656	56	20,944	0.27
39	Kentucky		75	60	0	4,500	75	18,400	0.24
40	Louisiana		75	60	0	4,500	75	19,265	0.23
41	Montana		45	90	6	4,320	45	19,463	0.22
42	Kansas		50	60	0	3,400	50	18,259	0.19
43	Maine		45	50	3	2,385	45	15,722	0.15
44	Vermont		28	66	0	1,848	28	15,338	0.12
45	Wyoming		60	20	0	1,200	60	24,000	0.05
46	Utah		25	20	5	625	25	19,677	0.03
47	New Mexico		0	30	19	0	0	20,600	0.00
48	New Hampshire		0	49	13	0	0	15,353	0.00
49	Rhode Island		0	66	3	0	0	23,175	0.00
50	North Dakota			60	0	0	0	18,390	0.00
	Average					15,570		19,867	0.78

Source: 1984-1985 Book of the States