

Prayer Practices

Legislatures operate with a certain element of pomp, ceremony and procedure that flavor the institution with a unique air of tradition and theatre. The mystique of the opening ceremonies and rituals help to bring order and dignity to the proceedings. One of these opening ceremonies is the offering of a prayer.

Use of legislative prayer. The practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer is long-standing. The custom draws its roots from both houses of the British Parliament, which, according to noted parliamentarian Luther Cushing, from time “immemorial” began each day with a “reading of the prayers.” In the United States, this custom has continued without interruption at the federal level since the first Congress under the Constitution (1789) and for more than a century in many states. Almost all state legislatures still use an opening prayer as part of their tradition and procedure (see table 02-5.50). In the Massachusetts Senate, a prayer is offered at the beginning of floor sessions for special occasions.

Although the use of an opening prayer is standard practice, the timing of when the prayer occurs varies (see table 02-5.51). In the majority of legislative bodies, the prayer is offered after the floor session is called to order, but before the opening roll call is taken. Prayers sometimes are given *before* floor sessions are officially called to order; this is true in the Colorado House, Nebraska Senate and Ohio House.

Many chambers vary on who delivers the prayer. Forty-seven chambers allow people other than the designated legislative chaplain or a visiting chaplain to offer the opening prayer (see table 02-5.52). Legislators, chamber clerks and secretaries, or other staff may be called upon to perform this opening ceremony. A guest in the Arizona, Michigan and Utah houses may be invited to give the prayer.

As indicated above, many different individuals may present the opening prayer. As a result, some legislative assemblies have established guidelines for its delivery. The guidelines in 37 chambers were developed by legislative leadership, the clerk or secretary, or a rules or management committee (see table 02-5.53 and table 02-5.54). Forty-eight chambers do not set guidelines.

According to the National Conference of Community and Justice (formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews), “accepting an invitation to lead the general community in prayer includes a genuine responsibility to be sensitive to the diversity of faiths among those in whose names the prayer is being offered. A request to offer a public invocation, blessing, benediction or other form of prayer should not be construed as an opportunity to give a personal testimony or a Bible devotional. Such religious meditations or preaching should be reserved for church and synagogue or for public events where the sponsors specifically request it. Religious sectarianism at public events is not only a breach of etiquette, but represents an insensitivity to the faith of others.”

Basic Guidelines

Before rendering a public prayer it may be most worthwhile to consider several guidelines relevant to the community setting:

- 1. Special Occasions.** In giving an invocation or benediction one calls upon God's presence on behalf of the particular public gathered (civic clubs, chambers of commerce, graduations, baccalaureates, etc.). Consequently, one is serving as a representative for others present and not as an individual petitioner.
- 2. Common Language.** In communicating on behalf of others, one is expected to use common language and shared symbols which are acceptable and understandable and not offensive or unintelligible. When appropriate, one may want to utilize a moment of group silence or consider a creative alternative. The challenge is to seek the "highest common denominator" and the best level of inspiration without compromise of conscience.
- 3. Nature of Public Prayer.** Such a public prayer may call for addressing, confessing, appealing and advocating. It is not an occasion for preaching or testifying to the public.
- 4. Appropriate Expressions.** In opening and closing the prayer, the leader should be especially sensitive to expressions that may be unsuitable to members of some faiths.

Source: The National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly know as the National Conference of Christians and Jews).

Three chambers require that prayers be reviewed before their presentation (see table 02-5.55). The Florida House asks that prayers be presented to the House chaplain for review at least one hour before the floor session begins. The Ohio House requires that prayers be submitted to the speaker of the House for review 72 hours in advance. In the Puerto Rico House, one week advance submission to the speaker of the House is required.

The constitutionality of legislative prayer was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983. In its decision on *Marsh, Nebraska State Treasurer, et al v. Chambers*, the court ruled that Congress and state legislatures do not violate the U.S. Constitution's separation of church and state even when clergy are paid to lead daily devotionals. Chief Justice Warren Burger's opinion held that the use of legislative prayer "has become part of the fabric of our society" and that it is not "an establishment of religion or a step toward establishment; it is simply a tolerable acknowledgement of beliefs."

Although the above case did not mention prayer in public schools, the high court's rulings in freedom of religion cases generally have asserted a difference between "impressionable children" and adults. As has been said, "legislators can choose to leave the chamber during an opening prayer; school children typically don't have the option to leave a classroom."

Chaplains. In many chambers, it is a tradition for a chaplain to be selected to serve the body. Two main types of chaplains are used by legislative assemblies—a designated Senate or House chaplain and visiting chaplains.

Senate or House Chaplains. Twenty-seven chambers designate someone as the Senate or House chaplain (see table 02-5.56). Although many Senate or House chaplains are legislative employees, their actual employment status varies. In 15 chambers, the chaplain is a session-only employee. The chaplains of the California Senate, Massachusetts House and American Samoa House are permanent, full-time employees. In the Florida House and Minnesota House, the chaplains are considered permanent, part-time staff (see table 02-5.57).

In 22 chambers, the Senate or House chaplain receives compensation—such as a salary, per diem or mileage reimbursement (see table 02-5.60). In the Washington Senate, however, the compensation provided for the chaplain goes directly to the ministerial association. Three legislative assemblies—the Florida House, West Virginia House and American Samoa House—do not compensate their chaplains.

Visiting Chaplains. Seventy-nine chambers use visiting chaplains, who serve by invitation (see table 02-5.61). They are asked to offer the opening prayer for a particular session day or week. In 60 legislative assemblies, the visiting chaplain is recommended by a Senate or House member (see table 02-5.62). In 19 legislative bodies, the clerk or secretary makes the selection. In another 18 chambers, a visiting chaplain is chosen by the presiding officer of the body. Eight chambers allow a local ministerial association to choose. The visiting chaplains usually rotate among religions (see table 02-5.63).

Thirty-one chambers provide compensation to their visiting chaplains—typically paying per diem or mileage (see table 02-5.64). Visiting chaplains in 29 legislative assemblies receive a commemoration for giving an opening prayer (see table 02-5.65). For example, 15 chambers provide a copy of the journal for the day on which the prayer was offered, 13 legislative bodies give certificates, and six legislative assemblies give copies of the video of the prayer. Visiting chaplains in the Virginia Senate and House receive special cups and copies of their prayers.

Table 02-5.50 Opening Prayer Offered Each Session Day

In the following chambers, a prayer is offered at the beginning of each session day.

Alabama Senate and House	Montana Senate and House
Alaska Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Arizona Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arkansas Senate and House	New Hampshire House
California Senate and Assembly	New Jersey Senate
Colorado House	New Mexico Senate and House
Connecticut Senate	North Carolina House
Delaware House	North Dakota Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Ohio Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Oregon Senate
Idaho Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Rhode Island Senate
Indiana House	South Dakota Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Tennessee Senate
Kansas Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Maine Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Washington Senate and House
Massachusetts House	West Virginia Senate and House
Michigan Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Minnesota Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Mississippi House	American Samoa House
Missouri Senate and House	Puerto Rico House

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.51 When the Prayer Is Offered

State (1)	Before the floor session is officially called to order	After the floor session is called to order, but before the opening roll call is taken	After the floor session is called to order and after the opening roll call is taken	Other
Alabama		B		
Alaska			B	
Arizona		S	H	
Arkansas		H	S	
California			H	
Colorado	H			
Connecticut		S		
Delaware			H	
Florida		H	S	
Georgia			B	
Hawaii		B		
Idaho			B	
Illinois		B		
Indiana		H		
Iowa		S		2
Kansas		H	S	
Kentucky		B		
Louisiana			B	
Maine		B		
Maryland			S	
Massachusetts		B		
Michigan		B		
Minnesota		B		
Mississippi		H		
Missouri		B		
Montana		B		
Nebraska	S			
Nevada			B	
New Hampshire		H		
New Jersey		S		
New Mexico			B	
New York				
North Carolina		H		
North Dakota		B		

Table 02-5.51 When the Prayer Is Offered, cont'd.

State (1)	Before the floor session is officially called to order	After the floor session is called to order, but before the opening roll call is taken	After the floor session is called to order and after the opening roll call is taken	Other
Ohio	H	S		
Oklahoma			B	
Oregon			S	
Pennsylvania		B		
Rhode Island			S	
South Carolina				
South Dakota		B		
Tennessee		S		
Texas			B	
Utah		B		
Vermont		B		
Virginia		B		
Washington			B	
West Virginia		B		
Wisconsin		H		3
Wyoming			B	
American Samoa		H		
Puerto Rico		H		

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate
2. Iowa: In the House, the prayer is offered after the session is called to order. There is no opening roll call.
3. Wisconsin: In the Senate, the timing varies, but usually it is after the roll call.

Table 02-5.52 Who Delivers the Prayer

State (1)	The Senate or House chaplain	A visiting chaplain	A member	The clerk or secretary	A legislative staff person	Other
Alabama		B	B	S	B	
Alaska	B	B	B			
Arizona		B			S	2
Arkansas	H	B	B		H	
California	B	S	S		S	
Colorado	H					
Connecticut	S		S		S	
Delaware		H	H		H	
Florida	H	B	B	S	S	
Georgia		B	S			
Hawaii		S	B		S	3
Idaho	B	B	B			
Illinois	B	H			H	
Indiana		H				
Iowa		B	B	H	H	
Kansas	B	B	B			
Kentucky		B				
Louisiana		B	B			
Maine		B				
Maryland		S				
Massachusetts	H	S				
Michigan		S	H			4
Minnesota	B	B				
Mississippi		H	H			
Missouri	B	H	H		H	
Montana	S	S	B			
Nebraska		S	S			
Nevada		B	S		S	
New Hampshire	H					
New Jersey		S				
New Mexico		B	S			
New York						
North Carolina	H	H	H			
North Dakota		B				

Table 02-5.52 Who Delivers the Prayer, cont'd.

State (1)	The Senate or House chaplain	A visiting chaplain	A member	The clerk or secretary	A legislative staff person	Other
Ohio		B				
Oklahoma		B	H			
Oregon		S	S		S	
Pennsylvania	H	S		S		
Rhode Island			S			
South Carolina						
South Dakota		B				
Tennessee		S	S		S	
Texas		B	S			5
Utah		S	B			6
Vermont		B	H			
Virginia		B				
Washington	S	B	B	S	S	
West Virginia	H	B	B		H	
Wisconsin		B	H			
Wyoming	S	H				
American Samoa						7
Puerto Rico		H				

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Arizona: In the House, a guest of a member also may be invited to offer the prayer.
3. Hawaii: In the House, someone invited by a House member may be asked to give the prayer.
4. Michigan: In the House, a guest may be invited to offer the prayer.
5. Texas: In the Senate, if there is no visiting chaplain, the doorkeeper may give the prayer.
6. Utah: In the House, a guest of a member may be invited to offer the prayer.
7. American Samoa: In the House, the prayer is delivered by someone appointed by the speaker.

Table 02-5.53 Guidelines for Delivering an Opening Prayer**The following chambers have established guidelines for the delivery of an opening prayer.**

Alaska Senate and House	North Carolina House
California Senate and Assembly	North Dakota Senate and House
Colorado House	Ohio Senate and House
Connecticut Senate	Oregon Senate
Florida Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Georgia Senate	Tennessee Senate
Hawaii Senate and House	Texas Senate
Kansas Senate and House	Vermont House
Maine House	Virginia Senate
Michigan Senate and House	Washington Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	West Virginia House
Nebraska Senate	Wisconsin Senate
Nevada Senate and Assembly	

The following chambers do not have guidelines for the delivery of an opening prayer.

Alabama Senate and House	Montana Senate and House
Arizona Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Arkansas Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
Delaware House	New Mexico Senate and House
Georgia House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Idaho Senate and House	Rhode Island Senate
Illinois Senate and House	South Dakota Senate and House
Indiana House	Texas House
Iowa Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Vermont Senate
Louisiana Senate and House	Virginia House
Maine Senate	West Virginia Senate
Maryland Senate	Wisconsin Assembly
Massachusetts Senate and House	Wyoming Senate and House
Mississippi House	American Samoa House
Missouri Senate and House	Puerto Rico House

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.54 Who Develops the Prayer Guidelines

State (1)	The lieutenant governor or Senate president	The speaker of the House	A rules or management committee	The clerk or secretary	An interfaith clergy committee, council or association	Other
Alabama				B		
Alaska						2
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California			H			3
Colorado			H			
Connecticut			S			
Delaware						
Florida					B	
Georgia	S			S		
Hawaii		H		S		
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
Iowa						
Kansas	S			H		4
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine				H		
Maryland						
Massachusetts						
Michigan			H	S		
Minnesota	S		H	S		5
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska				S		
Nevada						6
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina		H				
North Dakota					B	

Table 02-5.54 Who Develops the Prayer Guidelines, cont'd.

State (1)	The lieutenant governor or Senate president	The speaker of the House	A rules or management committee	The clerk or secretary	An interfaith clergy committee or council	Other
Ohio	S	H		B		
Oklahoma						
Oregon				S		
Pennsylvania				S		7
Rhode Island						
South Carolina						
South Dakota						
Tennessee	S		S			
Texas		S				
Utah						
Vermont	H	H				
Virginia				S	S	
Washington	S					8
West Virginia			H			
Wisconsin				S		
Wyoming						
American Samoa						
Puerto Rico						

Table 02-5.54 Who Develops the Prayer Guidelines, cont'd.

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alaska: A detailed response was not provided.
3. California: The Senate chaplain establishes the guidelines at the request of the Rules Committee.
4. Kansas: In both chambers, the chaplain helps set the guidelines.
5. Minnesota: In the Senate, the fourth assistant secretary assists.
6. Nevada: For the Senate, the majority leader and the House speaker agree upon the guidelines; for the House, the Counsel Bureau sets the guidelines.
7. Pennsylvania: In the House, the parliamentarian sets the guidelines.
8. Washington: In the House, the guidelines were set by a bipartisan task force and recently updated by the chief clerk.

Table 02-5.55 Opening Prayers Are Reviewed Before Presentation

The following chambers review all prayers before their presentation.	
Florida House	Puerto Rico House
Ohio House	
The following chambers do not review prayers before their presentation.	
Alabama Senate and House	Montana Senate and House
Alaska Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Arizona Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arkansas Senate and House	New Hampshire House
California Senate and Assembly	New Jersey Senate
Delaware House	New Mexico Senate and House
Florida Senate	North Carolina House
Georgia Senate and House	North Dakota Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Ohio Senate
Idaho Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Indiana House	Rhode Island Senate
Iowa Senate and House	South Dakota Senate and House
Kansas Senate and House	Tennessee Senate
Kentucky Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Maine Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Virginia Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate and House	Washington Senate and House
Michigan Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Mississippi House	Wyoming Senate and House
Missouri Senate and House	American Samoa House

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.56 Designated Senate or House Chaplain**In the following chambers, a person has been designated as the Senate or House chaplain.**

Arkansas House	Nebraska Senate
California Senate and Assembly	Nevada Senate
Colorado House	New Hampshire House
Connecticut Senate	North Carolina House
Florida House	Pennsylvania House
Idaho Senate and House	Washington Senate
Kansas Senate and House	West Virginia House
Massachusetts House	Wyoming Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	American Samoa House
Missouri Senate and House	Puerto Rico House
Montana Senate	

The following chambers do not have a designated Senate or House chaplain.

Alabama Senate and House	Nevada Assembly
Alaska Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
Arizona Senate and House	New Mexico Senate and House
Arkansas Senate	North Dakota Senate and House
Delaware House	Ohio Senate and House
Florida Senate	Oklahoma Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oregon Senate
Hawaii Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate
Illinois Senate and House	Rhode Island Senate
Indiana House	South Dakota Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Tennessee Senate
Kentucky Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Louisiana Senate and House	Utah Senate and House
Maine Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Virginia Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate	Washington House
Michigan Senate and House	West Virginia Senate
Mississippi House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Montana House	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.57 Employment Status of the Senate or House Chaplain

State (1)	Permanent, full-time employee	Permanent, part-time employee	Session-only employee	Other
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas			H	
California	S		H	
Colorado				2
Connecticut			S	
Delaware				
Florida		H		
Georgia				
Hawaii				
Idaho			B	
Illinois				
Indiana				
Iowa				
Kansas			B	
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
Maryland				
Massachusetts	H			
Michigan				
Minnesota		H		3
Mississippi				
Missouri			B	
Montana			S	
Nebraska				
Nevada				4
New Hampshire			H	
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina			H	
North Dakota				

Table 02-5.57 Employment Status of the Senate or House Chaplain, cont'd.

State (1)	Permanent, full-time employee	Permanent, part-time employee	Session-only employee	Other
Ohio				
Oklahoma				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				5
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia				
Washington				6
West Virginia				7
Wisconsin				
Wyoming			B	
American Samoa	H			
Puerto Rico			H	

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Colorado: In the House, the chaplain is a daily employee.
3. Minnesota: In the Senate, the position of chaplain is a ceremonial position.
4. Nevada: The Senate chaplain is paid on an "as worked" basis.
5. Pennsylvania: In the House, the chaplain is selected on a monthly basis.
6. Washington: The Senate chaplain is not an employee; the person is rotated at least weekly.
7. West Virginia: A member of the House serves as chaplain.

Table 02-5.58 Who Selects the Senate or House Chaplain

State (1)	Elected by the entire body	Appointed by the lieutenant governor or Senate president	Appointed by the House speaker	Chosen by a rules or management committee	Other
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas			H		
California	H			S	
Colorado					2
Connecticut					3
Delaware					
Florida			H		
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho				B	
Illinois					
Indiana					
Iowa					
Kansas		S	H		
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts			H		
Michigan					
Minnesota	B				4
Mississippi					
Missouri	H			S	
Montana		S			
Nebraska					
Nevada			S		5
New Hampshire					6
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina			H		
North Dakota					

Table 02-5.58 Who Selects the Senate or House Chaplain, cont'd.

State (1)	Elected by the entire body	Appointed by the lieutenant governor or Senate president	Appointed by the House speaker	Chosen by a rules or management committee	Other
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					
Pennsylvania			H		
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington		S			
West Virginia			H		
Wisconsin					
Wyoming		B			
American Samoa			H		
Puerto Rico	H				7

Table 02-5.58 Who Selects the Senate or House Chaplain, cont'd.

Key:

S=Senate

H=House or Assembly

B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Colorado: In the House, the chaplain is selected by the chief clerk and then approved by the House Services Committee.
3. Connecticut: In the Senate, the chaplain is appointed by the Senate president pro tem.
4. Minnesota: In the Senate, the chaplain is nominated by the majority leader before the full body votes.
5. Nevada: In the Senate, the majority leader also is involved in the appointment.
6. New Hampshire: In the House, a committee to select the chaplain is established by resolution.
7. Puerto Rico: In the House, the chaplain is selected by the majority caucus.

Table 02-5.59 Senate or House Chaplain Rotates Among Religions**In the following chambers, the Senate or House chaplain rotates among religions.**

California Senate	Montana Senate
Colorado House	Nevada Senate
Connecticut Senate	Pennsylvania House
Florida House	Washington Senate
Idaho Senate	West Virginia House
Kansas House	American Samoa House
Minnesota Senate and House	Puerto Rico House
Missouri House	

The following chambers do not rotate their Senate or House chaplains among religions.

Arkansas House	Missouri Senate
California Assembly	New Hampshire House
Idaho House	North Carolina House
Kansas Senate	Wyoming Senate
Massachusetts House	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.60 Compensation for the Senate or House Chaplain

State (1)	Compensation Provided		Type of Compensation		
	Yes	No	Salary	Per Diem	Mileage
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas	H		H		H
California	B		B		
Colorado	H		H		
Connecticut	S		S		
Delaware					
Florida		H			
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho	B		B		
Illinois					
Indiana					
Iowa					
Kansas	B		B		
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
Maryland					
Massachusetts	H				
Michigan					
Minnesota	B		H	B	S
Mississippi					
Missouri	B		B		
Montana	S		S		
Nebraska					
Nevada	S			S	
New Hampshire	H		H		
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina	H		H		
North Dakota					
Ohio					
Oklahoma					
Oregon					

Table 02-5.60 Compensation for the Senate or House Chaplain, cont'd.

State (1)	Compensation Provided		Type of Compensation		
	Yes	No	Salary	Per Diem	Mileage
Pennsylvania	H			H	
Rhode Island					
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia					
Washington	2				
West Virginia		H			
Wisconsin					
Wyoming	S		S		
American Samoa		H			
Puerto Rico	H		H		

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Washington: In the Senate, the compensation provided for the chaplain goes directly to the ministerial association.

Table 02-5.61 Use of Visiting Chaplains**The following chambers use visiting chaplains.**

Alabama Senate and House	Nebraska Senate
Alaska Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Arizona Senate	New Hampshire House
Arkansas Senate and House	New Jersey Senate
California Senate and Assembly	New Mexico Senate and House
Connecticut Senate	North Carolina House
Delaware House	North Dakota Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Ohio Senate and House
Georgia Senate and House	Oklahoma Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Oregon Senate
Idaho Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Rhode Island Senate
Indiana House	South Dakota Senate and House
Iowa Senate and House	Tennessee Senate
Kansas Senate and House	Texas Senate and House
Kentucky Senate and House	Utah Senate
Louisiana Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Maine Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Maryland Senate	Washington Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate and House	West Virginia Senate and House
Michigan Senate	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Minnesota Senate and House	Wyoming House
Mississippi House	American Samoa House
Missouri House	Puerto Rico House
Montana Senate	

The following chambers do not use visiting chaplains.

Arizona House	Montana House
Colorado House	Utah House
Michigan House	Wyoming Senate
Missouri Senate	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.62 Who Chooses the Visiting Chaplain

State (1)	Chosen by lieutenant governor, Senate president or president pro tem	Chosen by the House speaker	Recommended by a Senate or House member	Selected by the clerk or secretary	Selected by the Senate or House chaplain	Selected by the local ministerial association	Other
Alabama	S		H				
Alaska			B				
Arizona			S				
Arkansas	S		H				
California			B				
Colorado							
Connecticut			S				
Delaware			H	H			
Florida			S				2
Georgia	S		B				
Hawaii			B	S		S	
Idaho			B		B		
Illinois	S		B	S			
Indiana			H				
Iowa			B				
Kansas	S		B		S		
Kentucky			H			B	3
Louisiana	S		B				
Maine		H	B	B			
Maryland	S		S				
Massachusetts	S		H				
Michigan			S				
Minnesota			B		H		4
Mississippi		H	H				
Missouri				H			
Montana	S			S	S		
Nebraska			S				
Nevada			S				5
New Hampshire				H			
New Jersey			S				
New Mexico		H				S	
New York							
North Carolina			H	H	H		
North Dakota			B			B	

Table 02-5.62 Who Chooses the Visiting Chaplain, cont'd.

State (1)	Chosen by lieutenant governor, Senate president or president pro tem	Chosen by the House speaker	Recommended by a Senate or House member	Selected by the clerk or secretary	Selected by the Senate or House chaplain	Selected by the local ministerial association	Other
Ohio			B	S			
Oklahoma			B				
Oregon			S				
Pennsylvania			B	S			
Rhode Island	S						
South Carolina							
South Dakota						B	
Tennessee	S		S				
Texas	S		B				6
Utah			S	S			
Vermont		H		S			
Virginia			B	B			7
Washington			B	H			
West Virginia			B				
Wisconsin			B	B			
Wyoming		H					
American Samoa	H	H	H	H	H		8
Puerto Rico		H					

Table 02-5.62 Who Chooses the Visiting Chaplain, cont'd.

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Florida: In the House, the sergeant at arms makes the selection.
3. Kentucky: In the Senate, a rules or management committee makes the selection.
4. Minnesota, In the Senate, the visiting chaplains are scheduled by the fourth assistant secretary.
5. Nevada: The chaplain coordinator in both chambers chooses.
6. Texas: In the Senate, legislative employees also make recommendations.
7. Virginia: When circumstances require, the House clerk may recommend a local minister, or the body may ask a current member to offer the prayer.
8. American Samoa: In the House, the majority leader also helps in the selection.

Table 02-5.63 Visiting Chaplains Rotate Among Religions**In the following chambers, the visiting chaplains rotate among religions.**

Alabama Senate and House	Nevada Senate and Assembly
Alaska Senate and House	New Hampshire House
Arizona Senate	New Jersey Senate
Arkansas Senate	New Mexico Senate and House
California Senate and Assembly	North Carolina House
Connecticut Senate	North Dakota Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Ohio Senate
Georgia Senate	Oklahoma Senate and House
Hawaii Senate and House	Oregon Senate
Idaho Senate	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Rhode Island Senate
Iowa Senate and House	South Dakota Senate and House
Kansas Senate and House	Tennessee Senate
Kentucky Senate and House	Texas House
Louisiana Senate	Utah Senate
Maine Senate and House	Virginia Senate and House
Massachusetts Senate	Washington Senate and House
Michigan Senate	West Virginia Senate and House
Minnesota Senate and House	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Mississippi House	Wyoming House
Montana Senate	American Samoa House
Nebraska Senate	Puerto Rico House

The following chambers do not rotate the visiting chaplains among religions.

Arkansas House	Massachusetts House
Delaware House	Missouri House
Georgia House	Ohio House
Idaho House	Texas Senate
Indiana House	Vermont Senate and House
Louisiana House	Wyoming Senate

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.64 Compensation for the Visiting Chaplain

State (1)	Compensation Provided		Type of Compensation		
	Yes	No	Salary	Per Diem	Mileage
Alabama		B			
Alaska	2				
Arizona		S			
Arkansas	H	S		H	H
California		B			
Colorado					
Connecticut		S			
Delaware					
Florida	3				
Georgia	B			B	S
Hawaii		B			
Idaho		B			
Illinois	B			B	
Indiana		H			
Iowa	B			S	B
Kansas		B			
Kentucky	S	H		S	
Louisiana		B			
Maine	B			B	
Maryland		S			
Massachusetts		B			
Michigan		S			
Minnesota	B			B	S
Mississippi		H			
Missouri		H			
Montana		S			
Nebraska		S			
Nevada	B			B	
New Hampshire	H			H	
New Jersey	4				
New Mexico		B			
New York					
North Carolina		H			
North Dakota	B			B	
Ohio	5	H			
Oklahoma	B		H	B	B
Oregon		S			

Table 02-5.64 Compensation for the Visiting Chaplain, cont'd.

State (1)	Compensation Provided		Type of Compensation		
	Yes	No	Salary	Per Diem	Mileage
Pennsylvania	S	H		S	
Rhode Island		S			
South Carolina					
South Dakota	6				
Tennessee		S			
Texas		B			
Utah		S			
Vermont	S	H		S	
Virginia		B			
Washington		B			
West Virginia		B			
Wisconsin	S	H		S	
Wyoming		B			
American Samoa		H			
Puerto Rico	H		H		

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alaska: In both chambers, visiting chaplains receive stipends.
3. Florida: In both chambers, visiting chaplains receive honoraria.
4. New Jersey: In the Senate, a \$100 donation is given to the visiting chaplain.
5. Ohio: In the Senate, the visiting chaplain receives free parking in the State House garage.
6. South Dakota: In both chambers, the chief chaplain receives a \$100 honoraria for serving as chief chaplain, securing other visiting chaplains and organizing the schedule for the prayers. Each visiting chaplain receives a \$20 honorarium per appearance.

Table 02-5.65 Commemorations for Visiting Chaplains

In the following chambers, visiting chaplains receive a commemoration for giving an opening prayer.

Alabama House	Maine House
Arkansas House	Minnesota Senate
Delaware House	Nevada Senate
California Senate and Assembly	Ohio Senate
Connecticut Senate	Oklahoma Senate and House
Florida Senate and House	Pennsylvania Senate and House
Georgia House	Tennessee Senate
Hawaii Senate	Virginia Senate and House
Iowa Senate	Wisconsin Senate and Assembly
Kansas Senate and House	Wyoming House
Louisiana House	American Samoa House

In the following chambers, visiting chaplains do not receive any commemoration for giving an opening prayer.

Alabama Senate	Nebraska Senate
Alaska Senate and House	Nevada Assembly
Arizona Senate	New Hampshire House
Arkansas Senate	New Jersey Senate
Georgia Senate	New Mexico Senate and House
Hawaii House	North Carolina House
Idaho Senate and House	North Dakota Senate and House
Illinois Senate and House	Ohio House
Iowa House	Oregon Senate
Kentucky Senate and House	Rhode Island Senate
Louisiana Senate	South Dakota Senate and House
Maine Senate	Texas Senate
Maryland Senate	Utah Senate
Massachusetts Senate and House	Vermont Senate and House
Michigan Senate	Washington Senate and House
Minnesota House	West Virginia Senate and House
Mississippi House	Wyoming Senate
Missouri Senate and House	Puerto Rico House
Montana Senate	

Note:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.

Table 02-5.66 Type of Commemoration Given to Visiting Chaplains

State (1)	Certificate	Copy of the video of the prayer	Copy of the journal for the day on which the prayer was given	Other
Alabama	H			2
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas	H			
California		S	B	
Colorado				
Connecticut			S	
Delaware				3
Florida			B	4
Georgia	H			
Hawaii	S			
Idaho				
Illinois				
Indiana	S		S	
Iowa				
Kansas	H		B	5
Kentucky				
Louisiana	H			
Maine			H	
Maryland				
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota			S	
Mississippi				
Missouri				
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada				6
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				

Table 02-5.66 Type of Commemoration Given to Visiting Chaplains, cont'd.

State (1)	Certificate	Copy of the video of the prayer	Copy of the journal for the day on which the prayer was given	Other
Ohio				7
Oklahoma	B	S	B	
Oregon				
Pennsylvania	S	B	S	
Rhode Island				
South Carolina				
South Dakota				
Tennessee	S			
Texas	H			
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia		B		8
Washington				
West Virginia				
Wisconsin			B	9
Wyoming	H			
American Samoa				10
Puerto Rico				

Table 02-5.66 Type of Commemoration Given to Visiting Chaplains, cont'd.

Key:

- S=Senate
- H=House or Assembly
- B=Both chambers

Notes:

1. The following chambers did not return a survey: Colorado Senate, Connecticut House, Delaware Senate, Indiana Senate, Maryland House, Mississippi Senate, New Hampshire Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, New York Senate and Assembly, North Carolina Senate, Oregon House, Rhode Island House, South Carolina Senate and House, Tennessee House, American Samoa Senate, District of Columbia Council, Guam Senate, Northern Mariana Islands Senate and House, Puerto Rico Senate and Virgin Islands Senate.
2. Alabama: In the House, a visiting chaplain receives a small booklet that contains all prayers for the session.
3. Delaware: In the House, visiting chaplains may receive a tribute for offering the opening prayer.
4. Florida: In the House, a visiting chaplain also receives a letter of gratitude from the House chaplain.
5. Kansas: In the House, a visiting chaplain also receives a letter of thanks from the House chaplain.
6. Nevada: In the Senate, a visiting chaplain receives a copy of the prayer booklet that is compiled after session adjourns.
7. Ohio: In the Senate, a visiting chaplain also receives a letter from the Senate clerk.
8. Virginia: Both chambers provide a special cup. In the Senate, a visiting chaplain also receives a copy of the prayer on certificate paper. In the House, a visiting chaplain also receives a framed copy of the prayer.
9. Wisconsin: In the Assembly, a visiting chaplain also receives a picture.
10. American Samoa: In the House, a visiting chaplain receives a cultural gift or offering.