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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Auditor's Office Releases Audit of Missouri Governor's Office**

**JEFFERSON CITY (April 22, 2015)** – The **Missouri State Auditor's Office** released the audit of the Missouri Governor's office today. In the areas audited, the overall performance of this entity was **Fair**.

As noted in the prior audit, the Governor's office continues to supplement office and mansion operations by using appropriations of other state agencies. This is despite appropriation bill provisions, effective since fiscal year 2012, prohibiting most state agencies from paying staffing and travel costs of the Governor's office. From July 2011 to June 2014, fourteen agencies funded all or part of the salaries and travel costs for six employees of the Governor's office and mansion for a total of approximately \$948,000; the Department of Public Safety paid approximately \$85,000 in costs associated with 49 flights for Governor's office personnel; and several state agencies paid other expenses of the Governor's office and mansion totaling approximately \$732,000. In addition, the Governor's office delayed some payments until the subsequent fiscal year.

In addition to salary increases provided most state employees, the Governor's office also provided salary increases to six employees. These increases totaled approximately \$42,000 annually, and provided annual increases ranging from 5 to 21 percent. As noted in our prior audit, the Governor's office has not developed a written employee manual, and does not require performance appraisals for employees.

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The Governor's office does not consistently evaluate whether commercial flights would be more economical than state planes for out-of-state trips, or procure commercial airfare in accordance with state policy. Governor's office employees often make lodging reservations without performing price comparisons or other procedures to ensure lodging costs are reasonable. We noted several instances where lodging costs appeared excessive, and Governor's office employees did not document why the higher costs were necessary and reasonable. In addition, the Governor's office held a retreat without obtaining price quotes or considering other locations, and paid costs associated with a float trip that did not appear necessary to the operation of the office or reasonable use of state funds.

To view the complete report, Citizens Summary and audit rating scale, visit:  
<http://auditor.mo.gov/view.aspx?id=201295>

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