



Pinckney Benton Stewart (PBS) Pinchback was the first African American to serve as governor of a state, but it wasn't without controversy. Following the death of Oscar Dunn and the impeachment of Henry Clay Warmoth, then state Senator Pinchback was elected governor by a special session in the Senate in 1872. Pinchback served only thirty five days but was nonetheless the first African American to hold such position. Pinchback went on to continue serving as a state Senator and established Southern University after proposing that a college to educate blacks be built. He was the first and only black governor in the United States until Douglas Wilder was elected in 1990.