

Senate Floor Rules for Media

It is the intention of these rules to allow access by the media to the members of the Georgia Senate while minimizing distractions and disruption of Senate proceedings while in session.

1. No members of the media may enter the Senate chamber during the morning devotional. Properly credentialed members must enter before the devotional begins or wait until its completion.
2. **No interviews may be conducted on the Senate floor while the Senate is in session.** Interviews may be taken in the Capitol hallways. The media alcoves on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Capitol overlooking the rotunda are well suited for interviews. Senate Press Office staff is happy to find additional space as needed.
3. **Photographers and camerapersons may request access to the Senate floor while the Senate is in session. If such request is granted, such person, must stay along the walls and no farther forward than the second lamp before the fireplace.**
4. Only two camerapersons/photographers will be allowed on the floor at once, so please be considerate of time. This limit does not include photographers from the Senate Press Office.
5. No additional lights or flash bulbs are allowed in the chamber while the Senate is in session. Tripods are only allowed in the press area at the back of the Chamber at the discretion of the Senate Press Office staff.
6. **Media may NOT enter or use the center aisle.** All reporters, camerapersons and photographers are also prohibited from approaching the well.
7. **Members of the media may NOT enter either ante room.**
8. **Photographers and television camerapersons may NOT film or record the desk or any document or object on the desk of a Senator,** unless permission is granted by the member.
9. The floor of the Senate has a strict dress code that requires jackets for men. Because we understand that it would be impractical for photographers and television camerapersons to meet this requirement, the dress code is slightly flexible for members of the media. **However, all members of the press are expected to dress professionally.**
10. If the number of photographers/camerapersons is excessive or creates a disturbance or disruption, they may be removed from the Senate floor at the discretion of the presiding officer.
11. If a credentialed member of the media is found lobbying, advocating, or promoting for any individual, political party, group, corporation, organization, or government agency, the person will be removed from the Senate floor and press gallery and will lose all media credential privileges for the remainder of the year.

12. Trade publications cannot receive permanent media credentials, but may apply for a temporary day pass to the press galleries, which will be revoked if the person is found lobbying or advocating.

13. **One chair in the South Press Gallery will remain reserved for a Senate Press Office Staff** member at all times.

14. Members of the media who have received permanent Senate media credentials may be granted temporary media credentials one time if they do not have permanent credentials with them for any reason. Temporary Senate credentials are available in 201 CLOB and media must present credentials from the employer at the time of request.

Senate Leadership may prescribe other limitations as appropriate under special circumstances. These limitations may be given through Senate Leadership, Senate Press Office Staff or the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms.

Violations of these rules and/or failure to comply with the instructions of the Senate Leadership, Senate Press Office Staff, or Sergeant-at-Arms could result in reporters, photographers, and/or camerapersons being removed from the floor of the Senate. Persons found in violation of these rules may also lose their Senate media credential privileges for the remainder of the calendar year. Such violations and resulting penalties will be handled by Senate Press Office Staff, including revocation.

If you have any questions about these rules or any other matters concerning Senate floor procedures or media credentials, please contact Senate Press Office Director Ines Owens at 404.656.0028 or ines.owens@senate.ga.gov.