



NH State Senate Media Policy 2015

The New Hampshire state Senate welcomes media coverage on both the floor of the Chamber and in the Gallery. However, space for reporters/cameras is limited so the Senate requests that all members of the media adhere to the following rules in order to balance the needs of the press with Senate decorum.

General Guidelines:

- Per Senate Rule 2-30, admission to the floor is by invitation of the Senate President or his/her designee.
- Media is defined as any organization, whether TV, cable-access, print, radio or web-based, whose primary purpose is the collection and dissemination of news.
- Those individuals whose primary purpose is to promote partisan politics or to influence public policy will not be considered media. These individuals are welcome to follow and videotape Senate proceedings, like the rest of the general public and lobbyists, from the Gallery.
- All members of the media are asked to write their names and affiliations on a sign-up sheet at the table just inside the Chamber door when they arrive.
- Members of the media who work out of the statehouse press room or who regularly cover the Senate will be given priority access to the floor and the Gallery whenever space becomes an issue.
- If the Chamber is unable to accommodate all media on the floor at one time, the press is encouraged to pool their resources.
- The media may not conduct interviews on the floor or discuss issues while senators are seated at their desks.
- The media may not place any object, sit or lean on the antique glass-top table located in the Chamber by the window.
- All cell phones must be silenced.
- All videotaping or audio recording must be paused while the Senate is in recess.
- The Senate reserves the right to issue and require media credentials.

Media Positions:

- Print and web-based reporters may sit at the table just inside the front door of the Chamber as space allows.
- A maximum of three video cameras will be permitted in the corner of the Chamber on the far side of the podium.
- Radio reporters may occupy this same corner in proximity to the mult-box as space allows.
- Still photographers may shoot from the print or videotaping corners **ONLY**. No shots are allowed from the podium, the podium steps or from behind any of the senators' seats. They may also shoot from the Gallery.
- Members of the media and their cameras are allowed in the Gallery as space allows but no tripods or sticks are permitted. No equipment, or anything at all, may be placed or rested on the railing for the safety of people underneath

Chamber Decorum:

- Members of the media may not cross in front of the podium during Session. Media who need to depart must do so without interrupting the business of the Senate. If they are positioned in the far corner of the Chamber, they should walk behind the last row of senators' chairs and leave through the front door of the Chamber only.
- Members of the media may not talk to senators on the floor during Session but can ask the Communications Director or Sergeant-at Arms to inform a senator that his/her comments are desired outside the Chamber.
- Members of the media are not permitted in the Senate antechamber adjacent to the Senate Clerk's office.

Removal Policy:

- As presiding officer, the Senate President has the right to remove any individual who causes a disruption in the Chamber or the Gallery. Any challenges or discussions concerning this rule must take place outside the Senate Chamber.
- Once an individual has been removed, he/she is welcome back in the Chamber or the Gallery only after an agreement regarding the conduct that led to the removal has been reached. The Senate President is the final arbiter regarding any such disputes.