

## House Floor Rules

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

1. After devotion, properly credentialed members of the news media may enter the House floor.
2. Reporters may have access to the floor of the House of Representatives only to request that a member leave the floor for an interview. Following the request, reporters must leave the floor immediately.
3. No interviews may be conducted on the House floor while the House is in session. Interviews may be taken in the South ante room or in the capitol hallways. The South ante room is located between the Speaker's office and the House Chamber. The media alcoves on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors are well suited for interviews.
4. Photographers and camerapersons may have access to the House floor while the House is in session, but must stay along the walls and as out of the way as possible. They cannot conduct interviews on the floor.
5. Media may NOT stand around the door between the South ante room and the House floor. If you need to find a representative, please enter the floor of the House of Representatives, walk away from the door way, and look for the representative while standing along a wall.
6. Media may NOT enter or use the center aisle. Nor may any media encroach upon the area around the well.
7. Members of the media may NOT enter the North ante room (by the television/radio press gallery).
8. Photographers and television camerapersons may NOT film or record the desk or any document or object on the desk of a Representative, unless permission is granted by the member.
9. The floor of the House of Representatives 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 more flexible for members of the media. However, all members of the press are expected to dress professionally. Blue jeans are not allowed and collard shirts are required.
10. If, in the discretion of the presiding officer, the number of photographers/camerapersons is excessive or creates a disturbance or disruption, the presiding officer may have them removed from the House floor.
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 House 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. Members of the media who do not work for trade publications may get one temporary media credential if they have not had an opportunity to apply for permanent media credentials. Media must present credentials from the employer at the time of request. After receiving the one-time temporary credential, the person should promptly apply for permanent media credentials.
14. Members of the media who have received permanent House media credentials may be granted temporary media credentials one time if they do not have their permanent media credentials with them for any reason. Media must present credentials from the employer at the time of request. After taking advantage of this one-time use, he/she will not be eligible for temporary media credentials for the remainder of the session.
15. One chair in the South Press Gallery will remain reserved for House Communications staff at all times.

The Speaker may prescribe other limitations as appropriate under the circumstances. These limitations may be given through the House Messenger, the House Sergeant-at-Arms, or House Communications staff.

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

If you have any questions about these rules or any other matters concerning House floor procedures, House media credentials or House Communications, please contact J.D. Easley, Marshall Guest, or Kristy Lindstrom.