

# **PUBLIC CONDUCT WITHIN THE STATE HOUSE COMPLEX**

## **Reference RSA 644:2 “Disorderly Conduct”**

### **GENERAL**

1. Persons in the State House Complex shall refrain from:
  - Loud or unusual noise or profanity;
  - Running, crowding, pushing or shoving;
  - Any obstruction of entrances, walks, corridors, elevators, offices, stairways or hearing rooms;
  - Any other conduct that creates a risk of harm to any person or which disrupts essential government operations.
2. Animals are not allowed inside the State House complex buildings except for service dogs. Service dogs are permitted to accompany people with disabilities in all public areas of the State House complex.
3. Food and beverages are allowed in the State House cafeteria only, except by special arrangement.
4. The Hall of Flags shall be preserved and protected as a memorial space. Use of the Hall of Flags is limited to (1) Governor, U.S. Senators and Representatives for official public announcements only (no campaigning) and (2) Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies in cases of inclement weather. No musical or special performances shall be permitted in the Hall of Flags.

### **SECURITY**

1. Security and control of the complex are the joint responsibility of General Court Protective Services and, when authorized by the Senate President or the House Speaker, the State Police.
2. The security and enforcement of laws and rules within the House and Senate Chambers, galleries and anterooms shall be the primary responsibility of the respective Sergeants-at-Arms, under the direction of the Speaker of the House or President of the Senate. The responsibility of enforcement of laws and rules for all other areas of the State House complex shall be the primary responsibility of the Chief(s) of Protective Services and, when authorized by the Senate President or the House Speaker, the State Police.
3. All members of the public entering the State House or Legislative Office Building are deemed to have consented to security screening of their person and property for weapons. Members of the public may leave the building rather than submit to the screening.
4. The presiding officers shall have general supervision over their respective chambers, and in the case of a disturbance, disorderly conduct or other actions which disrupt governmental operations in the chamber, a gallery or a lobby, may order the appropriate Sergeant-at-Arms to clear the area. In the case of a disturbance, disorderly conduct or other actions which disrupt governmental operations in a committee or hearing room, the Chair may order Protective Services to clear the room.

### **DEMONSTRATIONS**

1. Demonstrations are allowed on the State House Plaza by permit issued by the Department of Administrative Services. Demonstrations may not utilize or obstruct the front steps of the state house.
2. No sticks, rods or similar devices may be used to support a banner, sign or placard within the State House Complex.
3. Banners, signs and placards may not be carried or held in such a way as to obstruct another’s view or to endanger the safety of another. Banners, signs, and placards may not be displayed in the galleries or committee rooms.

**APPROVED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES COMMITTEE - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023**