



## ALABAMA STATE HOUSE VISITOR RULES & POLICIES



The Alabama Legislature welcomes visitors! The State House is generally open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and whenever the State Legislature is in legislative session. The building is usually closed on federal and state holidays. Through the adoption of these visitor rules and policies, the Legislature seeks to provide a safe, informative, and educational environment for all while visiting the Alabama State House. These rules and policies are not all inclusive and visitors at all times are subject to the circumstantial rules, guidelines, or restrictions imposed by authorized legislative personnel.

**The following rules and policies shall apply to all visitors to the Alabama State House:**

### ***ENTRY POLICIES:***

- The State House visitor entrance is located at the front doors of the building facing Union Street. An alternative entrance is located on the south side of the building facing Washington Avenue. This alternative entrance is for handicapped or physically disabled visitors, or for special events or occasions.
- Upon entry, all visitors must sign in and be processed through a security screening checkpoint. Visitors must pass through a metal detector and thermal imaging machine prior to admission to the facility, and all hand-carried bags, briefcases, or other items will be run through an x-ray and/or thermal imaging machine.
- **Weapons of any kind are not permitted in the State House.** Items considered to be weapons include open and obvious weapons such as firearms and knives of all kinds, but also includes electronic defense weapons, facsimile weapons, scissors, tasers, pepper spray, fireworks, firecrackers, sparklers, and any other items that can be used as a weapon. **Exceptions to this policy are made for APOST Certified active duty law enforcement officers in the commission of official duties or on official duty.** This exception does not apply to lobbying activities.
- Visitors attempting to bring firearms or other weapons into the State House will be asked to leave the State House grounds to store firearms or weapons in a safe place off-property.
- **Weapons not declared upon entry and passage through a security screening checkpoint are subject to confiscation or impoundment.**
- Signs, placards, posters, poster boards, balloons, musical instruments, noise-making devices, laser-pointers, art supplies, and other items that can be used as open and obvious distracting or attention-getting devices are prohibited within the State House, and must be checked with security upon entry to the building.
- **Animals or pets, other than authorized or certified service animals, are not permitted in the State House.**
- Refusal to submit to or failure to pass a security screening will result in denial of entry into the State House.

### ***GENERAL POLICIES/RESTRICTIONS:***

- Visitors can obtain information about the State House, legislators, and directions from the State House Visitor/Information Desk located in the main lobby.
- Food and beverages are only permitted in the State House under circumstances that make it clear that such items are for immediate consumption while in appropriate areas of the building.
- Food and beverages are not allowed into the House and Senate chambers and/or galleries.
- Visitors shall move about the State House quietly and in an orderly manner.
- Visitors are not permitted to loiter in the main lobby.
- Physically disabled or handicapped persons are responsible for bringing their own equipment and/or personnel to assist in moving about the State House).
- Violation of any State House rules and policies may result in arrest and /or removal from the State House.

### ***TOURS:***

- Tour group leaders must check in with State House Security.
- Tour groups are not permitted to bring bags and/or backpacks into the State House.
- Tour groups must use the stairs, which are located in the main lobby, to access the floors they are touring, unless otherwise directed by State House Security. Tour group visitors who are physically handicapped or hindered from using the stairs are allowed to use the main lobby elevators.

**REVISED 01/29/2021**