

ILLINOIS SENATE MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR THE 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pursuant to the Senate Rules of the 103rd General Assembly, the President of the Senate has the power to preserve order and decorum in the Senate and to grant access to certain areas of the Senate to members of the media. To that end, the following guidelines shall be enforced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, or any Senate staff designated by the Senate President:

1. All Senate Rules regarding the media apply as contained in Senate Resolution 8 of the 103rd General Assembly or otherwise amended.
2. In order to obtain access to the press galleries of the Senate, designated press areas of Senate committee hearing rooms, or other designated press areas of the Senate, a person must have a media credential issued by the Office of the Senate President. To obtain a media credential, a person must submit an application to the Office of the Senate President. All applications submitted are subject to the review and approval of the Senate President or designee.
3. Persons eligible to apply for a media credential must be a bona fide resident correspondent of reputable standing, giving their chief attention to the gathering and reporting of news. Applicants must be employed by newspapers, periodicals, radio or other news services (hereinafter “news organization”) that regularly publishes a substantial volume of news material of either general, economic, industrial, technical, cultural, or trade character whether on television, in print, on the Internet or a combination thereof. The news organization must engage in and require coverage of Illinois on a continuing basis and must be owned and operated independently of any industry, institution, association, political entity, or lobbying organization. All applicants must also be employed by a news organization that is published for profit and is supported chiefly by advertising or by subscription, or is published by a nonprofit organization. Each applicant must operate independently of any industry, or institution, and not engage, directly or indirectly, in any lobbying, electioneering, or other activity intended to influence any matter before the General Assembly or before any department or other instrumentality of the Executive branch.
4. The Senate President shall determine, in his discretion, whether or not an applicant meets the criteria set forth in paragraph 3. Any person granted a media credential under these guidelines shall not engage in lobbying or paid advertising, publicity or promotion work for any individual, political party, political candidate, political organization, corporation or other organization.
5. The Senate President may issue temporary credentials to individuals who meet the eligibility requirements contained in these guidelines, but who may be on short-term assignment or temporarily residing in Springfield, Illinois.
6. All persons issued a media credential shall obey all security regulations when entering the Capitol and its office buildings.
7. No person issued a media credential shall be entitled to enter the Senate press gallery or other designated press area unless appropriately attired, including but not limited to:
 - a. Gentlemen must wear jackets and ties in the press galleries.
 - b. Ladies and gentlemen are prohibited from wearing hats in the press galleries.
8. Seating in the press galleries is reserved for persons with media credentials issued by the Office of the Senate President.
9. Additional press access is also available in the Howlett Building’s Hall of Flags.

10. Still photographs may be taken without flash from the press galleries on the Senate floor.
11. No photographs or video may be taken of the Senate floor or a Senate committee room while the Senate or committee is in session unless the person who seeks to take such photographs or video has a media credential and has received prior permission to do so by the Senate or the committee, as applicable.
12. Standing in the press galleries on the Senate floor is discouraged and may be prohibited by the President or Presiding Officer as the case may be.