

Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security Aug. 20, 2025

Minnesota Department of Public Safety

- Minnesota Statute 299E.01 creates a Capitol Complex Security Division within DPS
- Reporting structure:
 - Commissioner
 - State Patrol colonel
 - State Patrol lieutenant colonel
 - Director of Capitol complex security
 - Emergency manager

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Duties

- Final authority for public safety and security on the Capitol complex
- Respond to calls for service within the Capitol complex
- Provide staff necessary to allow for state business to be conducted and for the convenience of the public
- Oversee plans and procedures for emergencies and continuity of operations
- Collaborative training, threat and emergency exercises

Other Items of Note

- Commissioner of Minnesota Department of Administration maintains responsibility for operation and maintenance of Capitol complex state-owned buildings
- Legislature maintains power to appoint and assign their staff for conducting legislative business
- Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board set in statute Chapter
 15B

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Staffing Troopers

- Provide security presence; licensed peace officers
- Respond to calls for service
- Weapons screening and courtroom presence at Judicial Center during business hours and hearings
- Provide security during meetings on the Capitol complex
- Law enforcement duties on the capitol complex

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Staffing Capitol Security Officers

- Respond to door and mechanical alarms
- Building interior and exterior checks
- Weapons screening at Judicial Center and Court of Administrative Hearings during business hours and hearings
- Provide information to the public
- Staff security kiosks
- Issuing parking warnings and citations

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms

Chief Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeant at Arms:

- Elected by the members of the Senate
- Non-partisan office providing administrative and security services
- Liaisons with State Patrol/Capitol Security

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Duties

- Provide services to Senate members and employees, including:
 - Recording equipment and assistance for electronic recording of meetings
 - Security and protection
 - Communication
 - Postal services
 - Parking assignments
 - Purchase and distribution of supplies

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Duties

- Provide access to a Sign Language Interpreter at any public hearing or conference, working with the Legislative Coordinating Commission
- Authorize and schedule meeting room reservations
- Provide project coordination
- Provide security services to the Senate:
 - Maintain order
 - Control the admittance of people to the Senate Chamber, Senate offices and Senate committee hearing rooms

House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms

Chief Sergeant at Arms:

- Non-partisan position elected by the House of Representatives
- Serves as a liaison with the Minnesota State Patrol regarding matters affecting staff, members and visitors

House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms' Duties

- Provide a safe environment for members and staff year-round with emphasis during session in the House chamber, committee meetings and House spaces
- Performs legislative services such as:
 - Security
 - Educational programs, facilities and supply management
 - Pages
 - Mail, parking, telecommunications
 - Duplication
 - Functions pertaining to its committees and divisions

House of Representatives Sergeant-at-Arms' Duties

- Carries out all orders of the House Speaker and maintains order and decorum in the House Chambers
- Communicates daily with various stakeholders regarding House business; including but not limited to:
 - Contracted vendors
 - Legislative Coordinating Commission for ADA accessibility
 - Department of Administration

Capitol Staff

Secure doors and access points

- Always ensure doors close and latch behind you especially after hours or when entering from less-trafficked areas
- Do not prop open doors or allow others to "tailgate" into secure areas without proper credentials

Report suspicious activity

 If you see something unusual — such as unattended bags, unfamiliar individuals in restricted areas, or erratic behavior — report it immediately to Capitol Security

Capitol Staff

Be visible and aware

Be alert when entering or exiting the building

Avoid creating hazards and report any hazards you see

 Keep walkways clear of clutter and report any maintenance issues that could pose safety risks

Protect your badge

- Keep badges secure. If lost or stolen, please report to capitol security
- Do not lend your badge to others

General Public and Visitors

Be aware of your surroundings

- Stay alert to people, exits, and posted signage
- Avoid distractions like headphones or texting while walking through unfamiliar areas

Stay in public areas

- Avoid entering restricted or staff-only zones unless escorted or authorized
- Respect signage and barriers

General Public and Visitors

Keep personal belongings secure

Never leave bags or electronics unattended

Use designated entrances and exits

- Do not prop open doors or use emergency exits unless directed
- Help maintain building security by not allowing others to "tailgate" behind you

Thank You

