

# CHAPTER III - SECTION 9

## PRIVILEGE AND CONDUCT

### ON THE FLOOR

#### **3.901 MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA**

Members of the media shall register with the Secretary of the Senate and may have their registration reviewed at any time. The Secretary of the Senate shall provide a list of registered members of the media to the Sergeant at Arms. The following provisions shall govern the registration process:

- 1) A member of the media shall be defined as a person employed by or working as:
  - a) A newspaper (as defined by U.S. postal regulations);
  - b) A broadcast station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, or a network serving one or more licensed broadcast stations;
  - c) A cable television system with a franchise granted by a Michigan unit of government, or a network serving one or more franchised cable systems;
  - d) A wire service; or
  - e) An independent contractor on assignment to report state government news for an organization described above.
- 2) Subject to approval of the Senate Majority Leader, the Secretary of the Senate shall establish a written policy to allow for the daily registration of visiting members of the media. The written policy shall allow for registration of visiting members of the media prior to the start of session.
- 3) The Secretary of the Senate may, under special circumstances, register representatives of the media not defined above if determined to be in the public interest.
- 4) Technicians for broadcast or cable stations shall also be registered when accompanying members of the media and shall be subject to the same rules.
- 5) The Secretary of the Senate may revoke the registration of any member of the media for cause. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, a change in employment status, lobbying or acting as a lobbyist agent, disrupting Senate proceedings, or refusing to comply with Senate rules or the directives of the presiding officer, Senate Majority Leader, or Secretary of the Senate. A decision to revoke registration may be appealed to the Committee on Government Operations.
- 6) Members of the media may talk with only a currently serving Senator or a member of his or her staff in the front entry or the hallway behind the Senate rostrum. Notwithstanding Senate Rule 3.902, members of the media may leave the media's designated area and talk with only a currently serving Senator or a member of his or her staff in the Chamber immediately following adjournment.
- 7) Members of the media shall enter from the north main door or the two south doors on either side of the rostrum and shall proceed directly to the areas designated for the media. If a member of the media enters through the north main door, he or she shall proceed directly to the areas designated for the media using the east or west side aisles only. Members of the media shall not enter the cloak

room or the restrooms of the Senate Chamber.

8) Members of the media may film, videotape, or photograph the Senate session from the media's designated area. During the first 20 minutes after the attendance roll call, with permission from the Senate, members of the media shall be allowed to film, videotape, or photograph from along the full length of the east and west side aisles.

9) A member of the media, including a broadcast technician, shall be entitled to record Senate session as long as it does not disrupt the proceedings of the Senate. "Record" shall mean videotaping, photographing, filming, taping, or electronically transmitting Senate proceedings or activities on the Senate floor when the Senate is in session.

### **3.902 FLOOR PRIVILEGE AND CONDUCT**

a) A session of the Senate shall be defined, for the purposes of this rule, as any period of time when the Senate is in session, any recess, and any 15-minute period before the Senate convenes and five minutes after it adjourns. The Senate floor is defined as the Senate Chamber and adjoining Rooms S201, S202, S204 (E. Lakin Brown Room), S204A, S207, and S212. Access to the Senate floor shall be restricted as outlined below during any session of the Senate, except that members of the public are permitted in Room S204 when a scheduled press conference is held there during session.

1) No person, other than the following, shall be admitted to the Senate floor:

a) Currently serving Senators and Representatives.

b) The President of the Senate.

c) The Governor and any necessary security detail.

d) Senators or Representatives in Congress.

e) Former Michigan Senators.

f) The Secretary of the Senate and his or her support staff.

g) Legislative staff as authorized in guidelines issued by the Senate Majority Leader.

h) One representative of the Governor, which shall include the Attorney General or their staff and the Secretary of State and their staff.

i) On special occasions, from time to time, one family member of a Senator or the President of the Senate, as authorized by the Majority Floor Leader.

j) Registered members of the media pursuant to Rule 3.901.

k) A guest who has been invited by a Senator to offer the invocation, and a family member of that guest.

l) Other guests approved from time to time by the Senate Majority Leader and Majority Floor Leader.

2) No registered lobbyist or lobbyist agent, including former Legislators, shall be allowed on the Senate floor. They shall not be allowed in the hallway behind the Senate rostrum, unless en route to or from the Lieutenant Governor's Office (S215) or the Elijah Myers Room (S208).

3) A former Legislator shall not lobby on the Senate floor, except if they are admitted under Senate Rule 3.902(a)(1)(g) or (h).

b) No person shall engage in any conduct on the Senate floor during any session of the Senate that undermines the decorum of the Senate. All persons who are admitted to the Senate floor shall observe the following guidelines:

1) No Senator shall speak until recognized by the presiding officer, unless the Senator rises to make a point of order.

2) Except as otherwise provided by Senate rule, no Senator shall speak on any matter not properly before the Senate.

3) No Senator shall speak more than twice in any one debate on the same day, without leave of the Senate, except the Senator who sponsored the matter under consideration; the Senator who sponsored the bill, resolution, joint resolution, or alternative measure if an amendment is under consideration; and the chairperson of the committee or subcommittee that reported the matter under consideration. Each speech shall not exceed five minutes, except there is no limit on the length of an oral dissent statement.

4) No Senator shall speak impertinently or submit in writing impertinent statements, attack the motives of any Senator who proposes or advocates a particular position, use indecent language or other disorderly words, or refer to another Senator by name in a disparaging way.

5) No Senator shall use a display, exhibit, or prop on the Senate floor during discussions, debate, statements, or the announcement of the introduction of a bill, resolution, joint resolution, or alternative measure.

6) No person other than a Senator, the President of the Senate, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, or the Sergeants at Arms shall pass through the well of the Senate Chamber, which is immediately in front of the Senate rostrum.

7) No person shall pass between the presiding officer and a Senator who is speaking.

8) No person other than a Senator, the President of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, or the Sergeants at Arms shall use the center aisle of the Chamber.

9) No person other than a Senator shall sit in a Senator's chair.

10) Except as otherwise permitted by the Senate Majority Leader, no staff shall be allowed on the Senate floor, except in the majority or minority lounge or the lounge at the rear of the Chamber, unless the staff is requested by a Senator and then only if seated at a Senator's desk.

11) No member of the media shall be allowed on the Senate floor unless he or she is in the media's designated area, except as otherwise provided in Rule 3.901.

12) No smoking shall be permitted on the Senate floor.

13) All individual electronic devices shall be turned off or on non-audible alert during Senate session. Except as otherwise permitted by the Senate Majority Leader, no person may film, video, webcast, or otherwise record the Senate during session from the rostrum. Failure to follow a warning issued by the presiding officer may result in the device(s) being confiscated for the duration of the session upon direction of the presiding officer.