

**Title HR2. Rules Governing Attendance, Behavior,  
and Decorum in the Utah House of Representatives**

**Chapter 1  
Attendance**

**HR2-1-101 Representatives shall be present.**

A member of the Utah House of Representatives shall be present on the floor of the House chamber during a session of the House, unless excused or unavoidably absent.

Amended by H.R. 4, 2013 General Session

**HR2-1-102 Absent representatives.**

If a quorum of the Utah House of Representatives is not present at the time the House is scheduled to convene, the presiding officer or the presiding officer's designee shall direct the sergeant-at-arms to:

- (1) find sufficient absent representatives to make a quorum for the transaction of business; and
- (2) escort them to the chamber.

Enacted by H.R. 3, 2010 General Session

**Chapter 2  
Decorum**

**HR2-2-101 Speaker to maintain order.**

The speaker or presiding officer shall maintain order and decorum during sessions of the House.

Enacted by H.R. 3, 2010 General Session

**HR2-2-102 Breaches of the order of the House.**

- (1) The speaker or presiding officer may call a representative to order if the representative is speaking impertinently, superfluously, tediously, or irrelevantly.
- (2) If called to order, the representative shall sit down, unless granted permission to explain the speech.

Enacted by H.R. 3, 2010 General Session

**HR2-2-103 Disorderly conduct in House -- Items prohibited in House gallery.**

- (1)
  - (a) The speaker or presiding officer may order the House areas or gallery cleared if a disturbance occurs.
  - (b) The sergeant-at-arms shall enforce this subsection in the areas controlled by the House.
- (2) Signs, banners, placards, and other similar materials are prohibited in the House gallery.

**HR2-2-104 Impugning motives of a representative.**

- (1) A representative may not impugn the motives of any other representative either on the floor of the House or in committee.
- (2) A representative who believes that the motives of any representative has been impugned by another representative may raise a point of order.

Enacted by H.R. 3, 2010 General Session

**HR2-2-105 Movement within the House chamber.**

When a representative is speaking, no person may walk between the representative and the speaker or presiding officer.

Amended by H.R. 2, 2017 General Session

**HR2-2-106 Smoking and electronic cigarettes prohibited.**

- (1) As used in this rule, "electronic cigarette" means any device, other than a combustible cigarette or cigar, intended to deliver vapor containing nicotine into a person's respiratory system.
- (2) A person may not smoke or use an electronic cigarette in the House chamber or other House controlled areas.
- (3) The sergeant-at-arms shall enforce this rule.

**Chapter 3  
Conflicts of Interest**

**HR2-3-101 Conflicts of interest.**

A House member shall comply with the conflict of interest requirements provided in:

- (1) Utah Code Title 20A, Chapter 11, Part 16, Conflict of Interest Disclosures; and
- (2) JR6-1-201.

**Chapter 4  
General Rules Governing the House Floor**

**HR2-4-101 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Department head" means the same as that term is defined in Utah Code Section 63A-17-807 or a department head's designee.
- (2) "Former legislator" means a person who is not a current member of the Legislature, but who served in the Utah House or Utah Senate at one time.
- (3)
  - (a) "Guest" means an individual who is afforded access to the House space under a provision of this chapter, who is not an individual described in Subsection (3)(c) or a special guest as described under HR2-4-101.2(5).
  - (b) "Guest" includes:

- (i) the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state attorney general, the state treasurer, the state auditor, and governor's staff; and
- (ii) a former legislator who is an individual described in Subsection (3)(b)(i).
- (c) "Guest" does not mean a legislator, a member of House or Senate staff, a member of professional legislative staff, a House intern, or a lobbyist.
- (4) "House conference rooms" means one of the conference rooms adjacent to the House lounge, speaker's office, or the majority caucus room.
- (5) "House halls" means the passageways that allow access to:
  - (a) the House chamber;
  - (b) the House lounge;
  - (c) the House offices; or
  - (d) any other nonpublic areas adjoining the House chamber.
- (6) "House intern" means an individual who is:
  - (a) an official participant in the student intern program sponsored by the Utah Legislature and administered by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel; and
  - (b) is assigned to a representative.
- (7) "House offices" means:
  - (a) Representatives' offices adjacent to the House chamber;
  - (b) Representatives' offices on the third and fourth floors of the capitol building;
  - (c) Representatives' offices in the House building; and
  - (d) kitchens, restrooms, elevators, and any auxiliary rooms in the nonpublic areas connected with the offices listed above.
- (8) "House or Senate staff" means an individual who is employed directly by the House or Senate.
- (9)
  - (a) "House space" means the House chamber, House lounge, House offices, House halls, and House conference rooms.
  - (b) "House space" does not mean the common public space outside the House chamber.
- (10) "Immediate family" means any parent, spouse, child, grandparent, grandchild, great-grandparent, great-grandchild, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew of a member of the House, provided that the individual is not a lobbyist.
- (11) "Lobbying" means communicating with a legislator for the purpose of influencing the passage, defeat, amendment, or postponement of legislative action.
- (12) "Lobbyist" means an individual who is required to register as a lobbyist by Utah Code Section 36-11-103.
- (13) "Professional legislative staff" means an individual employed by one of the Legislature's profession-based staff offices, namely the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General, or the Office of Legislative Printing.

**HR2-4-101.1 Sergeant-at-arms to provide enforcement.**

The sergeant-at-arms, under the direction of the speaker, shall enforce the requirements of this chapter.

Enacted by H.R. 4, 2013 General Session

**HR2-4-101.2 Admittance to House floor -- Prohibition against lobbying.**

- (1) Subject to the requirements of this rule, while the House is convened in annual general session or special session, only the following individuals are permitted on the House floor:
  - (a) a legislator;
  - (b) a member of House or Senate staff;
  - (c) a member of professional legislative staff;
  - (d) a House intern;
  - (e) a former legislator who is not:
    - (i) a lobbyist; or
    - (ii) the governor, lieutenant governor, state attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor;
  - (f) a guest; and
  - (g) a department head.
- (2)
  - (a) While the House is convened in annual general session or special session, a representative may invite one guest who is not a lobbyist to accompany the representative on the House floor, provided that:
    - (i) the guest sits next to the representative;
    - (ii) the representative ensures that the guest does not impede staff work, distract from the work of the House, or encroach on a neighboring representative's desk;
    - (iii) the guest complies with the requirements of this rule, HR2-4-102, and HR2-4-103; and
    - (iv) no representative objects.
  - (b) A representative may have no more than one guest on the House floor at any one time.
  - (c) An individual described in Subsections (1)(e) through (g) is prohibited from lobbying on the House floor.
- (3) While the House is convened in annual general session or special session, a lobbyist is not permitted on the House floor.
- (4) The speaker or the speaker's designee may authorize special guests to be present in the House chamber or on the House floor.
- (5)
  - (a) A representative sponsoring a piece of legislation being debated by the House may, with the permission of the speaker, invite one department head with expertise on the legislation to assist the sponsor during the course of debate.
  - (b) A representative who invites a department head to assist the representative under Subsection (5)(a) shall ensure that the department head:
    - (i) does not engage in lobbying while on the House floor; and
    - (ii) promptly exits the House floor when the House moves to another item of business.

**HR2-4-101.3 Admittance to the House lounge.**

- (1) While the House is convened in annual general session or special session only the following individuals are permitted in the House lounge:
  - (a) a legislator;
  - (b) a member of House or Senate staff;
  - (c) a member of professional legislative staff;
  - (d) a member of the representative's immediate family;
  - (e) a House intern;
  - (f) a former legislator who is not:
    - (i) a lobbyist; or

- (ii) the governor, lieutenant governor, state attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor;  
and
  - (g) a lobbyist or guest as provided in Subsection (2).
- (2)
- (a) A representative may invite a small number of lobbyists or guests to meet with the representative in the House lounge for the purpose of educating the lobbyists or guests about the legislative process or to discuss specific legislative issues.
  - (b) The representative shall ensure that the lobbyists and guests leave the House space when the meeting is over.

**HR2-4-101.4 Admittance to the House offices, conference rooms, and halls.**

- (1) While the House is convened in annual general session or special session only the following individuals are permitted in the House offices:
- (a) a legislator;
  - (b) a member of House or Senate staff;
  - (c) a member of professional legislative staff;
  - (d) a House intern;
  - (e) a member of the representative's immediate family;
  - (f) a former legislator who is not:
    - (i) a lobbyist; or
    - (ii) the governor, lieutenant governor, state attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor;  
and
  - (g) a lobbyist or guest, as provided in Subsection (3).
- (2) An administrative assistant who is not a House intern is permitted in:
- (a) the office of the representative who is employing the administrative assistant;
  - (b) the common areas of the House offices;
  - (c) a conference room in the House space, when meeting to discuss legislative business with a representative; and
  - (d) the office of another representative with the consent of that representative.
- (3)
- (a) A representative may invite a small number of lobbyists or guests to meet with the representative in the representative's House office or a House conference room to discuss specific legislative issues.
  - (b) The representative shall ensure that the lobbyists and guests leave the House space when the meeting is over.
- (4)
- (a) While the House is convened as a body on the House floor, and except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), only the following individuals are allowed in the House halls:
    - (i) a legislator;
    - (ii) a member of House or Senate staff;
    - (iii) a member of professional legislative staff;
    - (iv) a House intern;
    - (v) an administrative assistant who is not a House intern; and
    - (vi) a former legislator who is not:
      - (A) a lobbyist; or
      - (B) the governor, lieutenant governor, state attorney general, state treasurer, or state auditor.

- (b) Immediate family of a representative, a lobbyist, a guest, an administrative assistant who is not a House intern, or any other authorized individual who is in transit to the House chamber, House lounge, or House offices may pass through the House halls when traveling to and from an authorized destination.
- (5) An administrative assistant to a representative who is not a House intern is not permitted to use or be issued an access badge that grants access to the House floor, House lounge, House offices, House conference rooms, or House hallways.

**HR2-4-102 Representatives' chairs and seating on the House floor.**

- (1) No one other than the speaker may occupy the chair or use the desk of the speaker, without the speaker's authorization.
- (2) When the House is convened in session, only the representative assigned to a desk and chair may occupy the chair or use the desk, except that a legislator may sit in the chair of another legislator.
- (3) In accordance with HR2-4-101.2, when the House is convened in session, a representative may invite one individual to sit next to the representative on the House floor.

**HR2-4-103 Prohibitions on lobbying and fundraising.**

- (1) As used in this rule, "fundraising" means:
  - (a) the solicitation of a monetary contribution for any purpose; or
  - (b) the announcement or promotion of an event that has as one of its purposes the collection of funds by means of a monetary contribution.
- (2) Lobbying is prohibited on the House floor as provided under HR2-4-101.2.
- (3)
  - (a) Distribution of literature or any other information that announces or promotes fundraising is prohibited on the House floor.
  - (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (3)(a), a verbal announcement that involves or relates to fundraising is permitted on the House floor if the announcement is:
    - (i) publicly made to all members on the House floor; and
    - (ii) an official announcement from the third house or authorized by the speaker of the House.

Amended by H.R. 2, 2021 General Session

**HR2-4-104 Recognition of visiting groups and individuals.**

- (1) The presiding officer may recognize visiting groups and individuals.
- (2) A representative who requests and receives personal privilege from the speaker or the speaker's designee may introduce visiting groups or individuals.

Enacted by H.R. 3, 2010 General Session

**Chapter 5**  
**Rules Governing Sponsoring Legislation**

**HR2-5-101 Representatives may request and sponsor legislation -- Substituting a sponsor --  
Withdrawing as a cosponsor.**

- (1) A representative may request and sponsor legislation as provided in Joint Rules Title 4, Bills and Resolutions.
- (2)
  - (a) After a piece of legislation has been introduced, the chief representative sponsor of the legislation may withdraw from sponsoring the legislation by:
    - (i) finding another representative to act as chief sponsor of the legislation; and
    - (ii) filing a substitution of sponsorship form with the chief clerk before final passage of the legislation in the House.
  - (b) A representative seeking to withdraw as the chief sponsor need not obtain permission from the House to withdraw.
- (3)
  - (a) During a general session, before final passage of a piece of legislation in the House, a representative cosponsor of the legislation may withdraw as a cosponsor .
  - (b) A representative seeking to withdraw as a cosponsor need not:
    - (i) obtain permission from the House to withdraw; or
    - (ii) provide a substitute cosponsor for the legislation.

Amended by H.R. 2, 2021 General Session