

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1000, Bremer Tower, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-5000
Phone: 651/201-7160 FAX: 651/297-5728 TTY: 651/282-6555
Internet: dps.mn.gov

Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal
Apprehension

To: Colonel Bogojevic
From: Bob Jacobson, Commissioner of Public Safety *MP*
Date: February 12, 2026
Re: Implementation of Governor's Executive Order for Dangerous Weapons
Screening at Minnesota State Capitol

Driver and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland Security
and Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline
Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

I. Objective.

It is the objective of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to take all reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure the Minnesota State Capitol Building is free of violence and the threat of violence. To achieve this objective, it is important that dangerous weapons are not introduced into the Capitol Building in violation of applicable law.

Pursuant to Executive Order 26-02, Minnesota Statutes, section 609.66, subd. 1g, and Minnesota Rule 7525.0300, subpart 2, the Minnesota State Patrol is therefore directed to implement weapons screening to deter and prevent the introduction of dangerous weapons into the Minnesota State Capitol Building in violation of applicable law.

II. Definitions.

For purposes of implementing this directive, the following terms have the meanings given them.

- A. **Capitol Security Officer.** A non-sworn security officer employed by the Minnesota State Patrol.
- B. **Controlled Access Point.** A public entrance to the Minnesota State Capitol Building where equipment is installed for the purpose of screening nonexempt persons for dangerous weapons as they enter the Capitol.

C. Dangerous Weapon. Under Minnesota Statutes, section 609.02, subd. 6, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing death or great bodily harm, any combustible or flammable liquid or other device or instrumentality that, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm, or any fire that is used to produce death or great bodily harm.

As used in this directive, "flammable liquid" means any liquid having a flash point below 100 degrees Fahrenheit and having a vapor pressure not exceeding 40 pounds per square inch (absolute) at 100 degrees Fahrenheit but does not include intoxicating liquor as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 340A.101.

D. Exempt Persons. Exempt persons include only the following:

1. The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and state auditor of the State of Minnesota;
2. The chief justice and associate justices of the Minnesota Supreme Court;
3. Elected members of the Minnesota Senate and the Minnesota House of Representatives;
4. The sergeants-at-arms of the Minnesota Senate and the Minnesota House of Representatives and the sergeants serving on their staffs;
5. Persons being escorted by a Minnesota State Patrol trooper.
6. Licensed peace officers entering the Minnesota State Capitol Building in the course of their official duties who provide their department-issued credentials and are authorized access by a state trooper or Capitol security officer;
7. First responders entering the Minnesota State Capitol Building in the course of their official duties in response to an emergency;
8. Federally authorized law enforcement agents when present in the Minnesota State Capitol Building pursuant to their official duties, if they are authorized by law to carry weapons and they provide their federal department-issued credentials to a state trooper or Capitol security officer upon entry; and

9. Minnesota Department of Administration employees who serve in facilities management, technical services supervision, and building engineering.

- E. **Miscellaneous.** To the extent any terms used in this directive are defined in Minnesota law, the definitions in Minnesota law apply.
- F. **Minnesota State Capitol Building.** The building located at 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd., St. Paul. MN 55101.
- G. **Nonexempt Person.** Any person entering the Minnesota State Capitol who is not listed as an exempt person in paragraph II.D above.
- H. **Permit to Carry.** A valid unexpired permit to carry a pistol issued pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 624.714, including permits issued by other states that are recognized by Minnesota in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 624.714, subdivision 16.
- I. **Prohibited Item.** Any item that may not be lawfully possessed in the Minnesota State Capitol pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.66, subdivision 1g(a)(2), including a dangerous weapon, ammunition, or explosives.
- J. **Screening Officer.** A Capitol security officer or Minnesota state trooper assigned to screen entrants to the Minnesota State Capitol Building for prohibited items.

III. Implementation.

- A. **Notice and Signage.** At each location where nonexempt persons may enter the Minnesota State Capitol Building, conspicuous signs shall be posted that advise entrants that: (i) Dangerous weapons, ammunition, and explosives, are prohibited inside the Minnesota State Capitol Building unless authorized by law; and (ii) Persons entering the Minnesota State Capitol Building are subject to screening for prohibited items upon entrance.
- B. **Screening Areas.** The Minnesota State Patrol shall establish screening areas at each controlled access point where nonexempt persons may enter the Minnesota State Capitol. At each screening location, the Minnesota State Patrol shall have in place weapons screening equipment staffed by state troopers or Capitol security officers trained in the use of such equipment.
- C. **Persons Subject to Screening.** Except for exempt persons identified in paragraph II.D above, all persons entering the Minnesota State Capitol

Building are subject to screening for prohibited items upon entrance to the Capitol Building.

- D. Persons Exempt From Screening.** Persons identified as exempt persons in paragraph II.D above are exempt from screening for prohibited items.
- E. Screening Time and Staffing.** Minnesota state troopers and Capitol security officers will conduct screening for prohibited items at the Minnesota State Capitol Building throughout the 2026 legislative session.
- F. Screening Protocols.** Minnesota state troopers and Capitol security officers will implement the following protocols for screening for prohibited items at the Minnesota State Capitol Building.
 - 1. **Screening of Persons.** All nonexempt persons entering the Minnesota State Capitol Building will be required to undergo screening of their persons for prohibited items.
 - 2. **Screening of Items.** All items shall be subject to screening by a state trooper or Capitol security officer.
 - 3. **Medical Accommodations.** Visitors who may have difficulty moving through the screening system will be screened in a different manner.
 - 4. **Permit to Carry.** Visitors with a permit to carry may carry a pistol according to the terms of their permit to carry, but are subject to screening for other prohibited items. Such visitors will be required to: (i) keep their permitted weapon properly stored or holstered; (ii) present their permit to carry to the screening officer; and (iii) present a valid government-issued photographic identification credential to the screening officer.
 - 5. **LEOSA Authorized Persons.** Visitors who meet the definition of a qualified law enforcement officer or qualified retired law enforcement officer under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), Title 18, United States Code, sections 926B and 926C may carry a pistol, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 624.714, subd. 2, in compliance with LEOSA, but such visitors are subject to screening for other prohibited items. Such visitors will be required to: (i) keep their weapon properly stored or holstered; and (ii) present valid photographic identification that meets the applicable requirements of LEOSA to the screening officer.

6. **Detection of Potentially Prohibited Item.**

If a prohibited item is detected and no legal exemption applies, then the individual will not be allowed to enter the Minnesota State Capitol Building, and the individual may be subject to arrest and prosecution for violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 609.66, subd. 1g, and any other applicable law.

7. **Refusal to Undergo Screening.** If a nonexempt person refuses to undergo screening as required by this directive, that individual shall not be allowed to enter the Minnesota State Capitol Building.