

STATE CAPITOL POLICE
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CONNECTICUT

STATE CAPITOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Walter Lee Jr.
Chief of Police

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(860) 240-0240
Fax (860) 240-0247
Walter.Lee@cga.ct.gov

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Public Information Officer: Officer Scott Driscoll

In our continuing mission to provide the safest environment for legislators, staff, and the nearly 150,000 annual visitors, including more than 25,000 school children, to the Capitol Complex, the Connecticut State Capitol Police Department (SCPD) will implement and deploy weapons detection equipment (metal detectors and package scanners) at the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building soon after the start of the 2014 Legislative Session.

Since its creation in 1996, the SCPD has endeavored to provide the safest environment for the legislative process to take place. In an effort to keep legislators, staff members and visitors to the Capitol Complex safe, a number of security upgrades have taken place over the last 17 years. As a result of a security upgrade study in 1999, a number of the recommended security upgrades have been implemented:

1. Installation of Cameras and Video Recording System
2. Installation of a Card Access System
3. Restructuring and Increased Staffing for SCPD
4. Security Technician Program
5. Gate Arm Access for Garage
6. Emergency Call Boxes
7. Emergency Warden Program
8. Intruder Drill Training and Exercises for Staff
9. Workplace Violence Training to Identify Employee Threats

In March 2011 a security assessment study was conducted by the Department of Homeland Security and The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. That study found that the SCPD has taken appropriate steps to provide safety and security for those on the Capitol Complex but recommended the implementation of a weapons detection system and stricter delivery protocols.

In June of 2013, the SCPD began gathering information with site visits to State Capitols in nearby states that already utilize weapons detection systems. The Capitols visited were Albany, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; Trenton, New Jersey and Providence, Rhode Island. Information on deployment, protocols, and best practices was gathered as it pertains to weapons detection and mail delivery. After obtaining this information, we formulated our recommendation to deploy a system for the Capitol Complex and submitted it to the legislative leaders. The legislative leaders have accepted our recommendations. We will be implementing a plan that requires all visitors and outside deliveries to be screened. Anyone with a Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) issued ID/Access card will not be screened but will follow certain protocols for entering and exiting both buildings.

Details of the plan are as follows:

1. LOB West (Main Entrance)
 - a. All visitors including school groups will be screened through a metal detector and all belongings will get screened with a package scanner.
 - b. Staff, legislators and anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card can utilize these entrances and will not be scanned. They can utilize their ID/access card to enter the buildings through optical turnstiles.
 - c. Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
2. Capitol West Entrance
 - a. All visitors including school groups will be screened through a metal detector and all belongings will get screened with a package scanner.
 - b. Staff, legislators and anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card can utilize these entrances and will not be scanned. They can utilize their ID/access card to enter the buildings through optical turnstiles.
 - c. Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
3. The LOB East (Terrace) Entrance
 - a. Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
 - b. Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
4. LOB Skywalk Entrance
 - a. Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
 - b. Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
5. Capitol South West Entrance
 - a. Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
 - b. Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
6. LOB Basement Garage Entrance
 - a. Anyone with LOB Basement parking privileges will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
7. All deliveries will be made to the loading dock located in the rear of the Legislative Office Building.
 - a. All packages will be scanned prior to delivery into the building.
 - b. Delivery personnel requiring access to the building will be screened through a metal detector.
 - c. Deliveries will no longer be accepted at the State Capitol Building.
8. SCPD will be adding an explosives detection dog to its ranks as part of the screening process.

On behalf of the SCPD, I would like to thank the Legislators, staff, and visitors for their anticipated cooperation as we begin these new protocols. The SCPD is committed to providing a safe environment for all involved in the legislative process. Request for additional information should be submitted to SCPD Public Information Officer Scott Driscoll.