

Please see Sergeant at Arms update in red, for each numbered section of the Legislative Advisory Committee Decision Points.

9. ***Pausing use of Card Room by advocates and special interests.*** Use of the Card Room for presentations by advocates or special interests should be paused for the 2022 legislative session to prevent congestion and allow for greater air flow in the hallways of the third floor of the State House.

We have a list of Card Room reservations that were taken in January of 2021 for the 2022 session. The organizations have been notified that their reservation is tentative, and a decision has not been made if the Card Room will be used.

10. ***Limiting use of cafeteria for “side bars” and receptions.*** “Side bars” and receptions during the 2022 legislative session should be held in the cafeteria with a limit of one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

There are a few reservations that have been made in the Cafeteria for the 2022 session. The organizations have been notified that their reservation is tentative, and a decision has not been made if the Cafeteria will be available for these events.

11. ***Pausing use of Cedar Creek Room for presentations, large press conferences, and receptions.*** The Cedar Creek Room should not be used for presentations, large press conferences, or receptions during the 2022 legislative session because of issues with congestion and air flow in that room.

We have not scheduled any events/activities in the Cedar Creek Room at this time.

13. ***Large press conferences at 109 State St.*** Large press conferences should be held primarily in 109 State Street. The Committee was split on the use of the Cedar Creek Room for small press conferences.

Large press conferences at 109 State Street would only fit in the auditorium. Outside groups would need to book this space through Buildings and General Services. The Sergeant at Arms’ office can book spaces for legislative use.

14. ***Limiting school and group tours.*** During the 2022 legislative session, school tours or group tours, including sports teams subject to a congratulatory resolution, should be limited to no more than two tours a day and no more than 25 participants per tour group. Schools and legislators should be informed prior to the 2022 legislative session that group tours should only be allowed with the prior authorization of the Sergeant at Arms.

The State House Tour Coordinator is keeping within the numbers of 25 people for groups coming to the State House, as of now, but has only been taking tentative reservations for the 2022 session until a decision is made.

15. **State House expenditure.** The Sergeant at Arms should be authorized to spend up to \$750,000 from the \$2,500,000 appropriated to the General Assembly in Act 74 of 2021 to retrofit or fit up the State House to meet the public health and space needs of the General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session.

It has been taking a bit of time to get the renovation work started. We are following best practices, starting by getting the approval to use the State-Wide Retainer Contracts, and we did get the go ahead to do that. The RFPs were written along with documents for the contractors to bid. We do have pre-bid potentials that know the timeline, and we are now waiting to hear back from them. The work will be able to start immediately since they are retainer contractors. This work includes 2 Aiken and the State House, including the single use bathroom. See numbers: 22, 23, 24, and 25 for specifics.

22. **Moving two Leg. Ops. staff to 2 Aiken.** Two Legislative Operations staff, the Operations Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant, who are currently located on the first floor of the State House Annex should be moved temporarily to 2 Governor Aiken Avenue for the 2022 legislative session.

This work is part of the RFP that we are waiting on for potential bidders to determine costs and timelines, with occupancy expected mid-December.

23. **Moving two Leg. Ops. staff to different State House location.** The Director of Legislative Operations and the Supervisor of Committee Services should remain in the State House but should be moved to a different location. There are two options to relocate these employees. The preferred space is in a new temporary space constructed in the Card Room with temporary walls. An alternative is in the open space of the second floor of the Mezzanine in the State House Annex.

It was determined that the Director of Legislative Operations and the Supervisor of Committee Services will be located in the expanded Legislative Council Conference Room Space, located across from the director's desk now.

24. **Converting Leg. Ops. space into a coat room.** The space vacated by the Legislative Operations staff should be converted into a coat room for legislators and the public.

This work is part of the RFP that we are waiting on for potential bidders to determine costs and timelines, with occupancy expected mid-December.

25. **Moving HR staff to 2 Aiken.** Human Resources staff should be moved to the office space previously used by the State Curator on the first floor of 2 Governor Aiken Avenue.

This work is taking place and, depending on other construction in 2 Aiken, occupancy is to TBD with the HR staff's input. HR will be temporarily located in 4 Aiken.

26. ***New HVAC system.*** Legislative leadership and BGS should initiate planning, construction, and installation of a new heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the State House as soon as practicable. The Committee reviewed application of air standards to the current State House heating and cooling system. Most specifically, the Committee reviewed whether and how the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62.1 for Ventilation of Acceptable Air Quality could be required for the current heating and cooling system or could be used as a standard for air quality or air flow in the State House. The Advisory Committee determined that ASHRAE 62.1 was not feasible for implementation under the current State House system. However, updating the HVAC system as soon as practicable so that the State House can meet ASHRAE standards will improve air flow and help improve the overall public health environment within the building.

HVAC timeline update:

BGS will hear of different options for the new HVAC system, sometime towards the end of October. Depending on what is proposed and chosen, the project could possibly be done in phases. There is a possibility that a phase of the work could be started in the summer/fall of 2022, continue into 2023 and possibly 2024.

27. ***Air purifiers.*** JLMC or the Sergeant at Arms should review use of portable air purifier units in legislative committee rooms and other spaces used by legislators and staff. Review should include evaluation of the efficacy of portable air purifier units, the noise generated by such units, and an overall determination of the benefits and detriments of the units.

In previous conversations that I had with the Environmental Coordinator for the State in discussing the Senate Chamber and air purifiers, my understanding is that the air purifiers will take some particulates out of the air that may help with a respiratory illness. It certainly would not hurt, but we should be clear that there is no guarantee of health safety with these units. They would be considered another tool, same as wearing masks, washing your hands or distancing yourself.

The concern is the amount of noise they would generate during Zoom meetings if they were turned up more than the lowest setting.