



# Policies & Procedures

## GEORGIA BUILDING AUTHORITY

**SUBJECT:** Building Policies

**REVISED:** 12/02/24

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### **PURPOSE:**

The Georgia Building Authority (GBA) is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of state facilities on the Capitol Hill Complex. GBA provides leadership, coordination, and technical advice to our partners and stakeholders to develop and preserve our facilities and related assets. The following building guidelines and restrictions are provided to ensure facilities and related physical assets meet their intended functions and are maintained in a high quality, cost-effective, and timely manner. Authority to repair, remodel, and maintain state real property is granted to GBA through Official Code of Georgia (OCGA) §50-9-5(6).

### **SECTION I. AGENCY COORDINATORS**

To foster and facilitate cooperation and communication, GBA requires that each tenant agency designate one or more specific individuals to serve as the Agency Coordinator in dealing with any questions or problems that may arise concerning the agency's use of buildings and facility premises. Agency Coordinators serve as the contact person to GBA and represent their respective agency in facility related issues.

#### **1. Agency Facility Coordinator**

Tenant Agencies shall designate an Agency Facility Coordinator who is authorized to request billable services from GBA.

#### **2. Agency Access Coordinator**

Tenant Agencies shall designate an Agency Access Coordinator to maintain accurate employee and contractor access information and coordinate the issuance of staff building access cards through GBA for Capitol Hill.

### **SECTION II. BUILDING SECURITY**

#### **1. Capitol Police Division**

This division of the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS-Capitol Police Division) provides security to the GBA facilities on the Capitol Hill Complex. Capitol Police monitor Capitol Hill facilities via a number of methods including: Capitol Police, State Troopers, security officers, access card validation, restricted access points, staffed posts, cameras, alarms, foot patrols, vehicle patrols, canine patrols, response to communication center calls, coordination of event security, and other means at their disposal. For police assistance, tenants may contact the DPS Communication Center at 404-624-7281.

#### **2. GSP Post 50 – Capitol Hill**

The Georgia State Patrol troopers of Post 50 control the access into the State Capitol and provide security for all buildings by conducting patrols in and around these buildings.

### **3. Medical Emergencies**

Medical emergencies should first be reported directly to 911 to ensure that paramedics are promptly dispatched to the proper location. After notifying 911, emergencies should then be reported to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Communications Center at 404-624-7281. Capitol Police can provide assistance by guiding the ambulance and other response vehicles to the proper location and commandeer elevators, if necessary, to expedite transport of the injured person(s).

### **4. Guidelines and Restrictions for the Use of State Buildings**

The Georgia Department of Public Safety is authorized and empowered to deny entrance into or upon any property or building of the state when the person's activities are intended to disrupt or interfere with the normal activities and functions carried on in such property or building or have the potential of violating the security of the personnel therein; deny entrance of any person displaying any sign, banner, placard, poster, or similar device; remove any person from any such property or building when the person's activities interfere with or disrupt the activities and the operations carried on in such property or building or constitute a safety hazard to the property or building or the inhabitants thereof.

- a) It is illegal for any person to disrupt state employees in the performance of their official duties (OCGA §50-9-9(a)).
- b) It is illegal for any person, firm, group, organization, or other entity to beg, panhandle, solicit, or to sell goods, wares, or any other objects or services within any buildings or on the grounds, sidewalks, or other ways owned by or under the control of the state, its agencies, authorities, commissions, boards, bureaus, or other state entities (OCGA §50-9-9(b)).
- c) It is illegal for any person to interfere with or obstruct the passage into or from government property (OCGA §16-7-24(b)).
- d) Persons and bags may be scanned.

## **SECTION III. BUILDING ACCESS**

GBA maintained buildings on the Capitol Hill Complex are open to the public during normal business hours. The standard operating hours for GBA facilities are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. GBA facilities are closed to the public on Saturdays and Sundays and on all state holidays.

### **1. Public Access**

At least one door to each building is designated as a "public access entrance" and is manned with either a Capitol Police officer, a State Trooper or a (DPS) contract security officer. Entrance into a building through a "public access entrance" may be obtained by presenting proper picture identification (e.g., driver's license, state- issued identification badge) to the officer.

### **2. Non-Public Access**

Access through other entrances into state-owned buildings is controlled by access card readers. State employees and contractors may be given access for entrance into buildings where they work or conduct business with the approval of the Agency Access Coordinator.

### 3. Restricted Access

Capitol Police (DPS) must approve all access to the State Capitol, the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, the Health Building, the Judicial Building, and to 244/254 Washington Street. Access through any door other than the public entrance into these buildings is limited to the employees/contractors who work there and DPS will not grant access to employees/contractors for reasons of convenience.

### 4. GBA Access

GBA reserves the right to enter facilities for the purpose of inspection, maintenance, or repairs.

### 5. Access Card

All employees and contractors must wear and display a valid GBA-issued building access card. Agencies are responsible for verifying the identity of their employees and contractors doing business on State property prior to requesting an access card. Agency Access Coordinators shall maintain accurate staff access information and coordinate the issuance of access cards through GBA.

- a) **Card Issuance** – The Agency Access Coordinator must submit an Access Card Request in the Capitol Hill Access Control system to be processed by GBA with at least a 24-hour minimum turnaround time. The employee or contractor may go to the GBA Parking & Access Office to have their picture taken and receive the access card. Access cards can be picked up by the employee/contractor or Agency Access Coordinator. Contractor badges will be active for the time frame chosen by the Agency Access Coordinator not to exceed 1 year from the date of the Coordinator’s request. Temporary and contractor red badges are \$20.
- b) **Card Return** – The Agency Access Coordinator must return to GBA access cards for employees and contractors immediately upon termination of employment.
- c) **Replacement Card Fee** – The replacement fee for an access card is \$20.00. These fees apply to lost or abused cards and change in personal information (i.e., name changes, title changes, etc.).
- d) **Card Care** – To maintain the reliability of access cards, proper care is essential. The following are some basic guidelines to consider:
  - Do not expose cards to extreme heat.
  - Do not fold, bend, or twist cards.
  - Do not re-laminate cards.
  - Do not punch a slot or hole in cards.
- e) **Policy Violations** - The following actions are policy violations and subject to revocation of access card privileges:
  - Loaning an access card to another person.
  - Transferring an access card to another person.
  - Altering an access card in any way.
  - Admitting unauthorized persons into any building.
  - Losing an access card and not reporting it.
  - Following or tailgating through a carded doorway or turnstile.
  - Misrepresentation of employee or contractor data for requesting an access card to Capitol Hill will result in disciplinary action.
  - Use of an invalid access card (expired, copied, counterfeit, or by other means).

#### **SECTION IV. HOUSEKEEPING**

Routine custodial services are performed on a scheduled basis and require no special request or planning. These services include vacuuming and cleaning carpets for office spaces, garbage and recycling collection, restroom cleaning, and pest control services.

##### **1. Emergency Cleaning Requests**

Requests for custodial services for spills, paper towels, bathroom tissue, etc. can be made through Tenant Services at 404-463-HELP (4357) or reported by email to [tenantservices@gba.ga.gov](mailto:tenantservices@gba.ga.gov).

##### **2. Housekeeping Guidelines**

The following housekeeping guidelines for tenants will assist GBA in maintaining clean facilities:

- a) **Office Space** - Keep clear all areas to be cleaned - the janitorial staff is instructed not to touch any computers, papers, files, or records that are lying on desks, file cabinets, or bookcases. Please do not store items on the floor as this makes it difficult for the housekeeping staff to clean your floor area.
- b) **Storage Areas** - Do not store materials within 24 inches of the ceiling in storage or closet areas. This is to ensure fire safety clearance for the sprinkler heads.
- c) **Restrooms** - Do not remove paper towels, toilet tissue, and other janitorial supplies from restrooms or supply closets. Do not dispose of any paper towels, handiwipes, or sanitary napkins into the plumbing system.
- d) **Trash Collection** - All boxes or items too large for the "Trash Only" containers that are to be disposed of must be labeled as "TRASH."
- e) **Waste Disposal** - Do not dispose of unwanted food into kitchenette or restroom sinks, drinking fountains, toilets, urinals, or in recycle containers. Please properly dispose unwanted food in trash cans.
- f) **Recycle Bins** - Do not use recycle bins for anything other than recyclable materials. Individuals are responsible for emptying desk recycle bins into the large GBA common area containers. These common area bins are not secured and GBA is not responsible for the materials placed inside them.
- g) **Food Storage** - Perishable food (i.e., fruit, vegetables) storage for extended periods of time is not permitted at desks or workstations. Supplies for coffee, tea and other foods must be stored in sealed plastic or metal containers.
- h) **Kitchens** - State agency employees are responsible for cleanup of kitchenettes and other established food preparation areas at the end of each day. Tenant refrigerators must be cleaned at least weekly of any items that may spoil. State agencies will be responsible for the cleanup, repair, and restoration of a food preparation area if damaged.

#### **SECTION V. HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)**

Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services are provided during the building hours of operation. Every effort is made to provide an even temperature and acceptable working environment throughout the building using the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 55. Tenants are not authorized to adjust thermostats - please contact Tenant Services when temperature adjustments are required.

**1. Heating Policy**

Occupied space temperatures are maintained between 68-74° F during the winter months. During periods where normally occupied spaces are not used during the daytime, weekends, or holidays, procedures to minimize unnecessary energy use will be followed. Designated operational areas for vestibules, stairwells, machinery, and unoccupied spaces temperatures are maintained at 60° F during the winter.

**2. Air Conditioning Policy**

Occupied space temperatures are maintained between 73-79° F during the summer months. Stairways, storage areas, mechanical rooms, and vestibules are not required to be air-conditioned.

**3. HVAC Restrictions**

The following HVAC restrictions will help to ensure consistent temperatures and working conditions throughout the buildings:

- a) **Temperature Controls** - Building occupants or tenant employees are not to adjust or make modifications to thermostats, diffusers, dampers, or any other part of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning Systems (HVAC). Only building maintenance staff is authorized to make temperature control adjustments. Report any heating or cooling problems to the Tenant Services at 404-463-4357 or [tenantservices@gba.ga.gov](mailto:tenantservices@gba.ga.gov).
- b) **Fan Coil Units** – Nothing is to be placed on the coil cover (windowsill) obstructing the airflow or in front of the air intake at the bottom of the cover. In order to access the filters for the units, furniture, and other objects should be kept 36” away from the fan coil units. Nothing is to be placed in front of the window higher than the windowsill.
- c) **Portable Space Heaters** - The only space heaters GBA will authorize is a ceramic heater equipped with a tip-over, shut-off mechanism. Use of a space heater and other electrical appliances in the same outlet can overload a circuit and could result in an electrical fire. Tenants must ensure that no other electric appliances are plugged into the same circuit as the space heater and that the maximum amperage rating of the heater does not exceed the rating of the outlet. Request for additional outlets to accommodate space heaters will be billed to the tenant agency.
- d) **Window Blinds/Drapes** – Door sidelights increase light infiltration and should not be covered with blinds or other window treatments. Blinds/drapes on exterior windows should be kept lowered whenever possible to increase the building’s energy efficiency. Blinds should be turned in a direction to reflect light/heat out. Draperies must meet life safety and fire code requirements. All draperies hung without GBA permission will be removed at the tenant’s expense.

**4. After Hours HVAC Requests**

Requests for after-hours heating and cooling must be made in writing from the Agency Facility Coordinator to the Tenant Services. Request must be made 72 hours prior to needing service as well as 72 hours prior to cancel a request that has been submitted to Tenant Services. There will be an hourly charge per floor.

**5. Energy Management**

For effective energy management, please turn off all office lights, personal computers, copiers, and printers at the end of each day unless essential to the operation of the agency’s mission.

## **SECTION VI. BILLABLE SERVICE REQUESTS**

All billable service requests must be requested in writing by an Agency Facility Coordinator through Tenant Services. Requests can be emailed to: [tenantservices@gba.ga.gov](mailto:tenantservices@gba.ga.gov) or sent by mail to:

Tenant Services  
Georgia Building Authority  
270 Washington St. SW, Suite 2101  
Atlanta, GA 30334

### **1. Tenant Improvements**

All tenant improvements to GBA owned facilities must be coordinated through GBA. Examples of tenant improvements include office renovations, remodeling or painting; installation of new electrical circuits or light fixtures; installation of new or additional card readers; and other changes to the building. Tenant agency responsibilities include:

- a) Approval of project plans from GBA prior to start of tenant improvements.
- b) Contracts and coordinates the agency's data, phone, and telecommunications needs with the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) or agency's telecommunications contractor.
- c) Upgrades from GBA standard materials requires written approval and tenant must return space to GBA standards.
- d) Maintenance of all tenant-owned furniture.
- e) Cost of installation, repair, operation, and maintenance of equipment in tenant space (including card readers, duress buttons, etc.).
- f) Repairs caused by tenant negligence or policy violations.
- g) The cost of ADA compliance for tenant requested services.

### **2. Door Keys**

Agency Facility Coordinators are responsible for coordinating with GBA for door key requests and managing the distribution and inventory of keys within their agency.

- a) **Key Request** – The Agency Facility Coordinator will submit a billable service request to Tenant Services.
- b) **Key Issuance** – Keys will be issued to the Agency Facility Coordinator, who will distribute to agency personnel.
- c) **Key Returns** – The Agency Facility Coordinator must collect all building keys and return to GBA when access to GBA facilities is no longer required.

### **3. Other Billable Services**

Other billable services may include moving services, signage, door lettering, name plates, and requests for after hours heating or cooling.

Tenant will be invoiced for billable service requests at the GBA hourly rate, material costs, and an administrative overhead fee. There will be a minimum charge for all billable service requests that includes one hour of labor and the administrative overhead fee.

Tenant agencies are responsible for paying for rent and all billable services when costs are due. GBA reserves the right to withhold other GBA services if rents or payments for other services are not received in a timely manner.

## **SECTION VII. GENERAL BUILDING RULES**

### **1. Use of State Property**

Tenants may not use GBA owned facilities for any purpose other than their intended use without the consent of GBA. Except as requested by a State entity and related to a statewide event or service, there shall be no soliciting/selling of products or services in the common areas of GBA buildings. Except as provided in the “Capitol and Grounds Exhibit and Event Guidelines”, the common areas of GBA buildings are not designated as areas for public forum.

### **2. Telecommunications Rooms**

Telecommunications rooms are defined as rooms that are used for telephone equipment, building cable distribution, network hubs, routers, switches, gateways, and cable termination equipment used for IT network support. This room is separate from any agency computer/server room with equipment defined as “any electronic digital or analog computer, along with all peripheral, support, memory, programming, or other directly associated equipment, records, storage, and activities.”

- a) These rooms must remain secure at all times (24/7); only dedicated agency personnel and GTA and their sub-contractors are authorized in the room. GBA will not provide access to rooms for agency personnel or contractors.
- b) All equipment (i.e. racks, switches, etc.) installations must be in accordance with the Georgia Technology Design Manual (GTDM). This includes proper use of wire management systems. Installation of racks requires prior written approval from GBA.
- c) Tenants may not install server equipment, cooling units, fans and furniture.

### **3. Smoking Policy**

Smoking is prohibited in GBA owned or leased buildings, including offices, hallways, waiting rooms, restrooms, break rooms, and meeting rooms, among other areas such as all parking decks and underground garages. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas of GBA premises. In designated areas, smokers are prohibited from blocking doorways and entrances, including delivery entrances, to the building. Employees are expected to keep the premises free of litter and dispose of ashes and cigarette butts in the designated receptacles. This policy includes, but is not limited to, tobacco products and electronic smoking devices.

### **4. Drug Free Workplace**

It is the policy of GBA to provide a drug free work environment. Employees are PROHIBITED from engaging in the UNLAWFUL/ILLEGAL manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of controlled substances.

### **5. Noise Restrictions**

Tenant or guests shall not make or permit any loud noises in the building or do anything that shall annoy, disturb or interfere in any way with any other tenant.

### **6. Prohibited Materials**

The following are not allowed in buildings due to the health and safety of building occupants who may be chemical sensitive or suffer with allergy problems: heated potpourri pots, scented sprays, or other pungent odor items. Due to potential fire hazards, no heat producing appliances are allowed in work areas (i.e., crock pots, hot plates, popcorn poppers, toaster, toaster ovens, etc.), nor burning candles or incense.

**7. Hanging/Affixed Items**

- a) Tenants may not mark, paint, hang, or affix anything to building walls, halls, windows, doors, staircases, entrances or elevators. This restriction includes and is not limited to pictures, paintings, posters, photographs, advertisements, signs of any kind, and stickers. Additionally, no items shall be affixed to ceiling grid, light fixtures, sprinklers, etc. GBA reserves the right to remove any objects or items attached or affixed to the building and windows in violation of this 7a and costs for removal and repair will be charged to the building occupant's agency.
- b) No posters, pictures, whiteboards, or bulletin boards shall be allowed on exterior cubicle walls.
- c) Agency Facility Coordinators may contact Tenant Services to hang paintings, pictures, posters, etc., in the appropriate place and with appropriate hardware. Bulletin boards are located throughout the buildings for the posting of public notices. Any deviation from building standards must be submitted in writing and approved by GBA.

**8. Signs/Advertisements**

Except for way-finding signage, no sign or advertisement should be put, painted, affixed or attached to the building walls, halls, windows, doors, staircases, entrances or elevators. Any deviation from building standards must be submitted in writing and approved by GBA.

**9. Door Locks**

No additional mechanical/electrical lock, latch, or bolt of any kind shall be placed upon any door, nor shall any changes be made to existing locks without consent of GBA.

**10. Workstation Policy**

All articles of modular furniture (acoustical panels, work surfaces, file cabinets, etc.) provided by GBA are not to be moved or rearranged except by GBA personnel. Cost of locating and replacing furniture moved without GBA's permission will be billed to your agency. Placement of the systems furniture in enclosed areas or private areas is not permitted and will be removed by the GBA staff.

**11. Surge Suppressors**

All surge suppressors must be UL Listed and meet UL Code 1449. Surge protectors cannot be placed on the floor but must be securely attached to work surfaces or to the walls. All cables and wires should not be exposed or cause any obstruction or hazard to foot traffic.

**12. Weight Limitations**

GBA shall have the right to prescribe the weight limitations, position and manner of installation of heavy articles such as safes, shelving, machines, and other equipment brought into the building. At no time shall any weight be placed upon any floor by tenant that exceeds the design conditions of the floors at the applicable locations. Please contact GBA prior to installation of any heavy articles.

**13. Ingress/Egress**

All fire access corridors, mechanical/electrical rooms including the elevator lobbies and stairwells, are to be kept free of storage and furniture. Fire code regulations require the stairwell doors to be closed at all times. No items shall be stacked on floors within offices/cubicles as to impeded egress path; clear pathways shall be maintained.

**14. Mobility Devices**

Bicycles, mopeds, scooters, skateboards, roller blades or skates, motorcycles or vehicles of any kind are prohibited inside of any building, unless specifically permitted for individuals with disabilities. Sidewalks, entrances, passages, corridors, halls, elevators, and stairways in the building shall not be obstructed by any tenant or used for any purpose other than for ingress and egress.

**15. Animals**

No animals may be brought into or kept in any building, unless the animal is specifically permitted for an authorized state program or is trained to assist a disabled or special needs person. Fish or other aquariums are not permitted.

**16. Plants**

Small plants are allowed in the building within common usage areas. All plants must have watering trays and be maintained by the individuals responsible for bringing them on site. No plants shall be set on windowsills, fan coil units, or any other building equipment. Fertilizer or plant food must be stored in sealed containers with Material Safety Data Sheet(s) (MSDS). Diseased plants will be removed immediately by GBA staff at the owner's expense. State agencies will be responsible for the cleanup and/or repairs to surfaces damaged by plant watering.

**17. Holiday Trees & Decorations**

The Georgia Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner does not recommend natural cut trees. Live trees may be used provided they meet the following:

- a) They are in fact live, (i.e., they have a root-ball system still attached) and are placed in containers with dirt.
- b) They are well maintained by watering them. Artificial trees must be of a nonflammable, noncombustible material and should be held upright in sturdy stands having a base that is broad enough to effectively support the tree against the surrounding activities. Artificial holiday trees and decorations shall be located in such a manner that they do not interfere with fire safety precautions and the route of egress. Trees and decorations must be located a safe distance from ignition sources such as electrical appliances or equipment and all electrical components should be disconnected when the area is unattended or at the end of the day. All lights and extension cords must be UL approved.

**18. Cooking**

No cooking, with exception of microwave ovens, shall be performed on the premises without written approval of GBA.

**19. Refrigerators and Ice Makers**

Refrigerators and ice makers must be approved and authorized by GBA.

Only frost-free refrigerators may be used and will be set upon a plastic floor pan.

**20. Vending Machines**

No vending machines shall be installed, maintained or operated upon the premises without the written consent of GBA.

**SECTION VIII. SPACE MANAGEMENT**

In order to cancel, reduce, or increase existing space, agencies must submit a request in writing to the Georgia Building Authority (GBA).

All requests must be received by May 1 each year in order to be effective for the next fiscal year. If the request to cancel or reduce space is to take effect during a fiscal year, it will be reviewed by GBA on a case-by-case basis.

## 1. Requests to Cancel or Reduce Space

Agencies shall complete the GBA Space Action Form (SAF). Access forms at [www.gba.georgia.gov/space-management](http://www.gba.georgia.gov/space-management). Submit the form to [gbaspacemanagement@gba.ga.gov](mailto:gbaspacemanagement@gba.ga.gov).

### a) Condition of Vacated Space

Agencies will be responsible for having the vacated space restored back to standard condition via reimbursable work order request through GBA. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Removal of white boards, bulletin boards, etc. and have wall patched and prepared for painting.
- Removal of specialized doors, windows, walls, etc.
- Removal of non-standard wall covering.
- Removal of specialty lighting.
- Removal of server rooms including electrical, HVAC, raised flooring, specialized fire suppression systems and cabling.
- Removal of data/phone cables per NEC and NFPA Codes.
- Removal of non-GBA furniture.
- Removal of audio/visual equipment and associated hardware, mounts, wiring, etc.; repair any associated damages to building.
- Return all office keys to GBA.

**NOTE:** Responsibility of agency to coordinate removal of data/phone cables per NEC and NFPA codes through GTA.

### b) Walk Through

Agencies must request a walk-through pre-inspection by GBA that shall be held thirty (30) days prior to the release date of the vacated space.

### c) Final Inspection

A final inspection shall be held within 7 days of the release date in order to verify the space has been returned to the standard building condition. If the space has not been returned to the building standards as verified in the pre-inspection meeting, or prearrangements made via reimbursable work order request from agency, the agency will be invoiced on a monthly basis until the space has been returned to the standard building condition.

## 2. Requests to Increase Space

Agencies shall complete the GBA Space Action Form (SAF) and Space Utilization Questionnaire (SUQ). Access forms at [www.gba.georgia.gov/space-management](http://www.gba.georgia.gov/space-management). Submit the forms to [gba.spacemanagement@gba.ga.gov](mailto:gba.spacemanagement@gba.ga.gov).

The SAF for the increase of space will be reviewed by GBA to determine if applicable vacant space is available.

- a) If improvements are needed, the Agency Tenant Coordinator will submit a design/estimate work order through Tenant Services.
- b) The agency approves the floor plan design/estimate and submits request for a reimbursable work order through Tenant Services.