

Atlantic Corporate Center
2317 Route 34, Suite 2B
Manasquan, NJ 08726
732-201-4133
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Thomas B. Considine



PRESIDENT: Asm. Ken Cooley, CA
VICE PRESIDENT: Asm. Kevin Cahill, NY
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Sen. Jason Rapert, AR

Order & Decorum at NCOIL Committee Meetings & General Sessions and in Materials

**I understand that by participating in/registering for an NCOIL event, I am agreeing to the following code of conduct:*

Maintaining decorum and civility during the course of NCOIL legislative committee meetings is the cornerstone of a productive and respectful hearing on matters before that committee. This also includes general sessions at NCOIL.

Persons who testify on NCOIL model legislation and those who attend NCOIL committee hearings or other sessions often travel long distances to do so. Everyone attending can reasonably expect that the meeting and/or session will be conducted in an environment of collegiality and mutual respect among the legislators, witnesses, and audience that is free from distractions and/or disruptions.

Legislative statutes around the country authorize the adoption of rules by legislative chambers to protect the safety of legislators, staff, and the general public that attends legislative hearings. This includes the ability to adopt rules (1) prohibiting signs, banners, placards, and similar display materials without prior authorization; and, (2) addressing any other matters that enable the orderly conduct of the

legislature's business and protection of the overall health and safety of all participants in the legislative process.

Since NCOIL is an organization comprised of the 50 States as members, represented by state legislators, it is logical and appropriate to implement similar rules and guidelines for its committee meetings and general sessions.

Accordingly, witnesses and other presenters at all NCOIL committee meetings and general sessions shall:

- Refrain from using profane, vulgar or offensive language
- Respect and adhere to their allotted timeframe
- Refrain from wearing any headwear other than headwear of religious or cultural significance
- Refrain from displaying signs, placards, banners or any other material at or near the witness table in the committee meeting/general session room that expresses support or opposition to issues before a legislative committee or issues that are the focus of the general session, other than those materials typically used in a presentation and which comport with these guidelines generally
- Refrain from wearing any article of clothing, costume, prop, pins or buttons with words that use profane, vulgar or offensive language or express support or opposition to issues before a legislative committee or issues that are the focus of the general session
- Respect and adhere to the procedure and format the committee chair or moderator of the general session has set forth for the committee meeting/general session

Additionally, all parties playing any role at an NCOIL national meeting must refrain from using any advertisements, signs or websites (before, during, or after the meeting/general session) that incorporates NCOIL's name or logo and may give the impression they are affiliated with NCOIL.

Nothing herein is intended or shall be construed to limit the legitimate and dignified discussion, advocacy of and opposition to the important issues that come before NCOIL.

****If any of these rules are violated, the committee chair or moderator of the general session may request that the person violating the rule(s) be removed from the room after said person has been provided an opportunity to rectify the violation.**

****Any witness or other presenter at NCOIL committee meetings and general sessions seeking a waiver from these rules must submit the waiver request to NCOIL staff at least ten (10) days in advance of the committee meeting/general session.**