



Capitol Complex Security

Update to 2009 Evaluation Report

Problems Identified

- **Security Vulnerabilities.** Minnesota has taken limited steps to protect the public officials, state employees, and citizens who use the Minnesota Capitol and nearby state buildings. For example, nearly all states have capitol complex security operations that rely on certified law enforcement officers to a greater extent than does Minnesota, and Minnesota's Capitol Complex has no weapons screening.
- **Insufficient Oversight.** Minnesota lacks an effective oversight body for reviewing the adequacy of Capitol Complex security on an ongoing basis.
- **Inadequate Emergency Planning.** The Capitol Security office has not taken sufficient steps to ensure that it and other state agencies have clear plans for responding to emergencies. Also, many of Capitol Security's administrative policies are outdated.

Changes Implemented

- **Capitol Security Oversight Committee Reestablished.** In late 2009, the Department of Public Safety formed a committee of Capitol Complex representatives from all three branches of government, chaired by the head of the State Patrol.
- **Bonding Authorized for Some Security Improvements.** The 2010 state bonding bill included \$1.25 million for "phase 1" of security upgrades in the Capitol Complex.
- **Armed Security Staff Added.** In 2010, the Department of Public Safety increased the number of retired law enforcement officers in the Capitol Security workforce from six to ten. These officers are armed but do not have full law enforcement authority.

Action Needed

- **Ensure Implementation of Updated Plans and Policies.** Capitol Security staff are collecting and reviewing the emergency preparedness plans now in place for each Capitol Complex building. The Department of Public Safety is considering whether to hire a consultant to develop a single emergency plan for the complex. Capitol Security officials are also in the process of updating policies and procedures for their staff.
- **Consider Adding Sworn Officers.** The Department of Public Safety should present the Legislature with a plan for adding some security staff with full law enforcement authority, including information on how those officers would be used and deployed.
- **Clarify Law Regarding Scope of State Patrol Protection.** The Legislature should amend state law to authorize State Patrol protection of constitutional officers, Supreme Court justices, and individual legislators, in cases where there are credible security threats. Currently, the law authorizes such protection for the Governor, Governor-elect, and "houses of the legislature."