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Sen. Harvey Peeler announced today that he will introduce legislation to require the Department of Public Safety to issue permits for demonstrations and rallies on the State House grounds. "Common sense is needed in determining the who, when and where for demonstration activity, and I didn't hear a lot of that yesterday in our State House Committee hearing," said Peeler. "When I hear a 40-year law enforcement veteran say the July 18<sup>th</sup> rallies were the worst situation he's ever seen, it's time to do something," he said. Peeler plans to model his legislation after the Federal regulations and guidelines. Information related to demonstration activity on the US Capitol grounds can be found at the following link:

[http://www.uscapitolpolice.gov/special\\_events/Special-Events\\_Guidelines-Application.pdf](http://www.uscapitolpolice.gov/special_events/Special-Events_Guidelines-Application.pdf)

"If the United States Capitol can designate areas for such activity and comply with the First Amendment of the Constitution, then the South Carolina State House can too," Peeler added.

The General Assembly has adjourned for the year and legislation will be prefiled in December. In order to get this plan implemented sooner, Peeler sent a letter to Department of Administration Director Marcia Adams today requesting her agency to adopt a procedure similar to the United States Capitol guidelines immediately.

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