

2023 Hearing Rules and Protocols:

Senate Testimony Submission Schedule and Rules:

<u>Bill Hearing Timeline</u>					
	<u>Monday Hearing</u>	<u>Tuesday Hearing</u>	<u>Wednesday Hearing</u>	<u>Thursday Hearing</u>	<u>Friday Hearing</u>
Oral Witness Sign-up & Written Testimony Submission	Friday from 8AM - 3PM	Monday from 8AM - 3PM	Tuesday from 8AM - 3PM	Wednesday from 8AM - 3PM	Thursday from 8AM - 3PM

- While witnesses are strongly encouraged to provide in-person oral testimony, to include as many citizens as possible in the legislative process, *up to 14* members of the public may provide virtual oral testimony via Zoom per bill.
- Witnesses must designate whether they will testify in person or by Zoom. Witnesses may *not* change their oral testimony designation (virtual or in-person) after the signup system closes, even if they are not selected for virtual testimony.
- Witness testimony via pre-recorded video will not be allowed.
- Late witness sign-up will not be allowed.
- Witness testimony will be timed. Witnesses should plan to conclude their testimony at the two-minute (2:00) mark, but the allotted time will be at the discretion of the committee chair.
- Witnesses who provide in-person oral testimony will be called to testify before
- witnesses providing testimony via Zoom. Any changes to this format will be at the discretion of the committee chair.

House Testimony Submission Schedule and Rules:

Witness Sign-up

- Witness sign-up will be open online through the Maryland General Assembly website two business days before the bill hearing. Witnesses may sign up between 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, excluding weekends. Witnesses will sign up on Thursdays for Monday hearings and on Fridays for Tuesday hearings.
- The specific bill order will be posted on the Maryland General Assembly website the day before the hearing. If a bill hearing is scheduled for a Monday, the hearing order will be posted on Friday.
- The House standing committees will cap bill hearings at a maximum of 50 in-person and virtual witnesses per bill.
- The witness sign-up software does not allow witnesses to sign up as a panel. The sponsor may communicate with the committee staff to testify together with other witnesses, and the chairs will make every effort to accommodate these requests.
- On the day of a bill hearing, witnesses may not alter their witness status from providing testimony in-person to virtual, or from virtual to in-person.