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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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Baltimore County



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The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

2022 HOUSE OF DELEGATES COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The House of Delegates Office Building will be open to the public during the 2022 legislative session, however, all committee proceedings will be conducted virtually. Committee guidelines are listed below.

There will not be any receptions or large gatherings in the House Office Building during the 2022 legislative session and committee dinners will not be scheduled.

Designated seats in the gallery above the Speaker will be open in the House of Delegates Chamber in the Maryland State House on a first-come, first-serve basis for the public. Anyone attending the proceedings of the House of Delegates will be required to wear a mask at all times while in the House Chamber and galleries.

2022 HOUSE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

All House committee work will be conducted virtually for the 2022 legislative session. The following framework for House Standing Committees is based on what we know right now about COVID-19. These are all subject to change, based on changing public health trends.

HEARINGS

- ***Bill hearings will begin on January 13, 2022 on pre-filed bills.*** Pre-filed bills will be available online in late December and the hearing schedule will be available during the first full week of January 2022 on the Maryland General Assembly website. Witness sign-up for pre-filed bills that will be heard on January 13th will be open via the MGA website beginning at 10am on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.
- Every on-time bill will receive a hearing. The standing committee chairs continue to have full discretion over the length of the hearing.

- The hearing schedule for each committee will be posted at the latest during the week before the hearing is scheduled.

WITNESS SIGN-UP

- *Witness sign-up will be opened online through the Maryland General Assembly website 48 hours before the bill hearing beginning at 8am until 3pm.* Witnesses can sign up on Thursdays for Monday hearings and 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 post on Friday.
- The House standing committees will cap bill hearings at *a maximum of 50 witnesses per bill.*
- The witness sign-up software will not allow witnesses to sign up as a panel. The sponsor may communicate with the committee about other witnesses that the sponsor wants to testify with them and the chairs will make every effort to accommodate those requests

SUBCOMMITTEES: While subcommittees are not subject to the Maryland Open Meetings Act, subcommittee work will generally be livestreamed through the Maryland General Assembly website for the 2022 legislative session.

VOTING SESSIONS: All standing committee voting sessions will be livestreamed through the Maryland General Assembly website for the 2022 legislative session. The vote lists will be available on the Maryland General Assembly website at least two days prior to the voting session.

CO-SPONSORS: For the 2022 legislative session, co-sponsors will be listed on the blue backs.

BILL FILES: Electronic copies of the bill files will be available by request to any member of the public after the bill hearing by contacting the standing committee.

- Bill files will be available through the MGA website when the bill is on the House floor for second reader. For bills that do not pass out of the standing committee, the bill file will be available on the website after the legislative session.