

House Economic Matters Committee (ECM)

Witness Guidelines and Committee FAQs

For the 2021 Session, all bill hearings will be held virtually via Zoom and streamed live on YouTube.

You can view all hearings via YouTube live on the:

Maryland General Assembly (MGA) website home page here:	http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite
MGA hearing schedule here:	http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Meetings/Day/guidelines

Economic Matters Committee Bill Hearings

The link to ECM bill hearings can be found on the MGA website under the Economic Matters Committee home page; open to the Meetings tab. To be notified and view all committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, briefings, and voting session, you may subscribe to the ECM YouTube channel. The link is posted on the Committee webpage.

Bill Hearings will be conducted during the following blocks of time:

- Mondays 1:30pm – 5:30pm
- Tuesdays through Thursdays 11am – 12:30pm; 1:30pm – 5:30pm; or 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- Fridays 11am – 12:30pm; 1:30pm – 5:30pm

The order of scheduled bills will be posted on the Hearing Schedule one day prior to the bill hearing.

For guidance on how to use the MyMGA portal, create your account, and navigate the witness sign-up and testimony submission features, refer to the two video tutorials on the Maryland General Assembly website.

Witness Signup and Testimony Upload

Anyone wishing to testify on a bill or submit written testimony must sign up using the MYMGA application on the MGA website. Witness sign up and testimony upload begins at **8:00 am two business days prior to the bill hearing and close at 3:00pm that same day.**

The following chart details timing for witness signup and testimony upload:

Hearing is on a:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sign up to testify and/or submit written testimony on:	The previous Thursday from 10:00am-3:00pm	The previous Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm	The previous Monday from 10:00am-3:00pm	The previous Tuesday from 10:00am-3:00pm	The previous Wednesday from 10:00am-3:00pm
Zoom link sent:	Previous Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday

Uploading Written Testimony

File names on testimony must include the bill number and the name of the organization and/or person testifying, such as “HB0135_PSC_Smith.pdf”. It may be helpful to include a position or other explanation after the name, such as FAV, UNF, FWA, INFO, or AMD.

The Committee is no longer able to accept written testimony in advance.

Late testimony will not be shared with the Committee until the next Committee work day.

E-mailed or faxed testimony will not be accepted prior to the bill hearing.

Hearing Procedures

There is a maximum of 50 witnesses per bill. Witnesses selected to testify will receive notification and the zoom link via email two days before the bill hearing. Witnesses will be held in the ‘zoom waiting room’ until their bill is called.

If your bill has many witnesses, you might not be admitted at the start of your bill hearing as the host will admit witnesses a few at a time. You may watch the hearing via the YouTube live stream (see above) while waiting for your bill.

After your bill is heard, you will be removed from the Zoom hearing and you can watch the hearing via YouTube. If you have another bill being heard on the same date but later that same day, please click the link in your email again to rejoin and you will be readmitted at the appropriate time for your next bill.

Oral testimony is limited to **2** minutes. The witness sign up software and Zoom platform will not allow for witness panels (*i.e.*, groups of witnesses) this session.

Testimony After Crossover

After Crossover, the committee will receive testimony on cross-filed Senate bills, only if scheduled for a hearing, from the sponsor or the sponsor’s designee. On departmental bills, the appropriate department will be allowed to testify. Others are welcome to submit written testimony. On all other bills, limited oral testimony may be received from the proponents and opponents only at the discretion of the committee chair.