

2024 House Rules Committee Guidelines

All House committee work will be done in hybrid format for the 2024 legislative session. That means you can testify in person OR online.

Rules Committee Bill Hearings:

- All committee information can be found on the MGA website.
- Witnesses can sign-up to testify on bills that have a scheduled hearing on the MGA website.
- Every House bill submitted by 5:00 pm on Thursday, February 8th will get a hearing. House bills submitted after this date go to the House Rules Committee. They may or may not get a hearing.
- The committee chairs decide how long the hearings will last.
- Hearing schedules for each committee are on the MGA website. They are posted before the hearing.

Witness Sign-Up

If you want to testify on a bill, you must sign-up online. You may testify in person OR online.

- **Witness sign-up will be opened on the MGA website 48 hours before the bill hearing.**
 - Witnesses can sign up from 10am until 6pm.
 - Witnesses can sign up on:
 - Thursdays for Monday hearings.
 - Fridays for Tuesday hearings.
- Committees hear testimony on different bills each time they meet. **If you have signed up to testify online, you will receive a Zoom link to the hearing the day before the hearing. You can look on the MGA website to see what order the bills will be talked about.** If a bill hearing is scheduled for a Monday, the Zoom link is sent and the hearing order is posted on Friday.
- Committees may limit the number of people that can testify on a bill.
- If you want to testify with other witnesses, you have to come to the Committee room to testify on the day of the hearing. **If you signed up to testify virtually, you have to testify online. The way you testify cannot change.**

Bill Files

Bill files include the bill, written testimony, and other information related to the bill.

- After a committee votes “yes” on a bill, it goes to the House Floor for second reading. That is when the bill file will be available on the MGA website.
- If a committee votes “no” on a bill, it will not go to the House Floor. If that happens, you can get the bill file on the website after the legislative session ends in April.
- If you can’t find the bill file on the website, you can ask for the bill file after the bill hearing. To ask for a bill file, call or email the committee staff. Contact information for each committee is on the website under the “Committees” tab.

Want more Information?

Go to the Maryland General Assembly website: mgaleg.maryland.gov

Or, go to the Department of Legislative Services website: dls.maryland.gov

410-946-5400