



# *The Maryland House of Delegates*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

## **2023 House of Delegates Protocols**

The House of Delegates Office Building will be open to the public during the 2023 legislative session. Full committee work will be conducted in person in committee rooms in a hybrid format, as witnesses may choose to testify either in person or online. Subcommittees will generally meet virtually.

There will be no receptions or large gatherings in the House Office Building during the 2023 legislative session. Space is severely limited due to the demolition of the Department of Legislative Services building.

Visitor sections on both sides of the House gallery will be open and available on a first-come, first-served basis for the public. Face masks are not required on the State House campus. Masks will be widely available for anyone who wishes to wear one while visiting.

### **Committee Guidelines**

All House committee work will be conducted in a hybrid format for the 2023 legislative session. While in-person testimony is encouraged, an opportunity to testify virtually is available to all witnesses. The following framework for House standing committees remains subject to change.

### ***Hearings***

- Bill hearings will begin as soon as possible on pre-filed bills.
- Every on-time bill (submitted by Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>) 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 during the week before the hearing is scheduled, at the latest.

### ***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.

ADRIENNE A. JONES  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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- 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.

### ***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 2023 legislative session. Subcommittees will generally meet virtually, except for the subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee which will generally meet in-person but be livestreamed.

### ***Voting Sessions***

All standing committee voting sessions will be livestreamed through the Maryland General Assembly website for the 2023 legislative session. The vote lists will generally be available on the Maryland General Assembly website 24 – 48 hours prior to the voting session.

### ***Co-Sponsors***

For the 2023 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.