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2026 SPECIAL SESSION GUIDELINES
August 3–5, 2026

These guidelines apply to the joint House and Senate bill hearing conducted during the 2026 Special Session.

Hearing Format and Schedule

- Joint House and Senate bill hearings will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2026, in the Joint Hearing Room.
- The hearing will be conducted in a hybrid format. Witnesses may choose to testify in person or virtually through Zoom.
- The hearing will be livestreamed through the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) website.
- The bill order, if more than one bill is scheduled, will be posted on the MGA website and remains at the discretion of the presiding officers.

Witness Signup and Written Testimony

- Witness signup and written testimony submission will be available through the MGA website on Friday, July 31, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Individuals must have a MyMGA account to register for oral testimony or submit written testimony.
- At signup, witnesses must select in-person or virtual oral testimony. [Click here for a tutorial.](#)
- A witness may not change that designation after the signup period closes.
- Written testimony must be uploaded in PDF format.
- Late witness signups will not be permitted.

Oral Testimony

- Oral testimony is limited to a maximum of 50 witnesses in total.
- Each witness will have two minutes to testify.
- If more than 50 witnesses register, the presiding chairs will determine the witnesses selected to testify. Committee staff will notify registrants regarding their status.
- In-person witnesses will generally testify before virtual witnesses, unless the presiding chairs determine otherwise.

Virtual Testimony

- Zoom links will be sent only to witnesses selected for virtual oral testimony from noreply@mga.maryland.gov the day before the scheduled hearing.
- Virtual witnesses must enter Zoom using their first and last names and must keep their cameras on while testifying.
- The Zoom link is confidential and may not be shared.
- Virtual witnesses should monitor the livestream on the MGA website and enter Zoom when directed by committee staff.

- After testimony and questions conclude, virtual witnesses should leave the Zoom meeting.

Public Access, Testimony, and Accommodations

- Public seating in the Joint Hearing Room will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to room capacity and security requirements.
- Written testimony submitted to the committees is public and may be posted on the MGA website. Once posted, testimony cannot be removed.
- For an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact committee staff as soon as possible.
- Requests for sign language interpretation should be submitted through the [MGA request form](#) as early as possible. Due to the short special-session timeline, interpreter availability cannot be guaranteed.

Voting Sessions and Bill Files

- Voting sessions will be livestreamed through the MGA website.
- Electronic copies of public bill files may be requested from the appropriate committee staff. Written testimony and other bill-file materials will be made available consistent with House and Senate procedures.

Note: The presiding officers retain discretion over hearing order, witness selection, questions, time limits, and other procedures necessary for the orderly conduct of the hearing.