



*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**2026 House of Delegates Protocols**

The House of Delegates Office Building will be open to the public during the 2026 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.

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 2026 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. You can find each committee's individual guidelines on their webpages on the [Maryland General Assembly website](#).

***Hearings***

- Bill hearings will begin as soon as possible on pre-filed bills.
- Every on-time bill (filed with the Chief Clerk's office by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>) will receive a hearing. The standing committee chairs continue to have full discretion over the length of the hearing.
- The schedule for each committee will generally be posted during the week before the hearing is scheduled.

### ***Witness Sign-up and Procedures***

- Witness sign-up will be open online from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through the Maryland General Assembly website two business days before the bill hearing. The sign-up schedule is as follows:

Hearing is on a→	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>You must sign-up to testify and/or submit written testimony on→</b>	The previous Thursday from 8:00am-6:00pm	The previous Friday from 8:00am-6:00pm	The previous Monday from 8:00am-6:00pm	The previous Tuesday from 8:00am-6:00pm	The previous Wednesday from 8:00am-6:00pm

- The specific bill order will be posted on the Maryland General Assembly website by noon on the day of the scheduled bill hearing. If a bill hearing is scheduled for a Monday, the hearing order will be posted on Friday.
- The House standing committees may cap the maximum number of in-person and virtual witnesses that can testify on a bill.
- 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 2026 legislative session.
- Subcommittees will generally meet virtually, except for the subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee which will generally meet in-person but will be livestreamed.

***Voting Sessions***

- All standing committee voting sessions will be livestreamed through the Maryland General Assembly website for the 2026 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 2026 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.