



**2021 Session  
House & Senate Committee  
Procedures – Bill Hearings  
& More**

# Maryland House of Delegates

## House Bill Hearings

- Bill hearings will begin on January 14, 2021 on pre-filed bills.
- Witness sign-up will be opened online 48 hours before the bill hearing beginning at 10am until 3pm.
- Witnesses can sign up on Thursdays for Monday hearings and Fridays for Tuesday hearings.
- The witness sign-up software will not allow witnesses to sign up as a panel. (Exception is Sponsor's panel.)
- The specific bill order will be posted the day before the hearing. If a bill hearing is scheduled for a Monday, the hearing order will post on Friday.
- The House standing committees will cap bill hearings at a maximum of 50 witnesses per bill.

## House Committee Working Hours

House committee work will occur during the following time blocks:

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

## Senate Bill Hearings

- During the first part of session, on days when the Senate floor does not meet, bill hearings generally will begin no earlier than 11:00 AM, as determined by the Chair of the Committee.
- There will be up to four (4) witnesses in favor (proponents), two (2) favorable with amendments (FWA) witnesses, and four (4) witnesses in opposition.
- The bill sponsor will be able to select up to three (3) witnesses to testify on the Senator's bill.
- All witnesses, with the exception of the witnesses selected by the sponsor, must create a "My MGA" account through the MGA website and must sign up through the MGA website.

## Senate Bill Hearings

- Witness sign up will open two (2) business days in advance of a scheduled bill hearing and will be open from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.
- Sponsor witnesses will be submitted to the committee by the sponsor of the bill and should not sign up through the MGA website.
- Late witness sign up will not be allowed.
- All selected witnesses will be notified of their selection the night before the scheduled bill hearing, and will receive the Zoom log-in information at that time.
- Witnesses cannot designate someone else to take their slot.
- All witnesses must have their cameras on for their testimony.

# Thank you for this opportunity!

John R. Woolums, Esq.  
Director of Governmental Relations  
Maryland Association of Boards of Education  
621 Ridgely Avenue, Suite 300  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
O: (410) 841-5414  
C: (410) 570-7365  
jwoolums@mabe.org  
www.mabe.org