



Legislative Committee Hearings

Your Voice Matters And Can Make a Difference

How To Prepare to Testify at a Legislative Committee Hearing:

"To testify" at a public legislative hearing means "to make a comment" for consideration by the Legislative Committee.

- Use [DFPC's Legislative Updates](#) to monitor key bills and to track their progress through the process of becoming law.
- Frequently check for meeting dates and times [HERE](#), and watch for text alerts from DFPC (sign up for text alerts [HERE](#)).

How to Prepare a Powerful Testimony (A Public Comment) for a Committee Hearing on a Bill:

*The public is typically given 2 minutes to make a comment to the committee regarding the legislation being heard. At the discretion of the Chair, the time may be limited to 1 minute. **Prepare for BOTH instances.** Follow the steps below to make sure your testimony is heard, and is effective.*

- Open your public comment by identifying yourself and your reason for testifying. (My name is _____, and I'm testifying in support/opposition of Bill No. ____.)
- Rehearse and time your testimony; keep your comments to under 2 minutes to avoid being cut off in mid-sentence.
- Make sure any facts or statistics you use are *easily* verifiable.
- Personal stories that evoke emotions are powerful! When telling stories in particular, make sure you stay within the time limit.
- Have a strong and memorable closing statement!
- Again, practice your testimony to make sure that you stay under 2 minutes.



How to Sign Up to Give Testimony:

These steps apply for both in person and virtual committee hearings. Virtual sign-ups are NOT required for in-person testimonies.

- **In-Person**
 - Upon entering the room where the committee hearing is being held, locate the clipboard at the back of the room. Write your name on the list, as well as the bill(s) for which you are testifying.
 - If the hearing has already begun, the clerk for that hearing is usually located at the front of the room and will indicate when the committee is ready to take in-person comment.
- **Virtually**
 - Go to legis.delaware.gov.
 - Go to Home - Delaware General Assembly.
 - Go to 'What's Happening' for a list of committee meetings.
 - Find the committee hearing you want (you may have to scroll down).
 - Select Register for Meeting (or click on the meeting link).
 - Fill out the form and register to testify.
- After you provide testimony (in-person or virtually), email your written comments to the address listed on that committee's agenda page.