

Tips for Using My MGA for Maryland Legislative Testimony

Steps to Give Testimony on a Bill

- Head to the Maryland Legislative Site <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/>
- Set up your own My MGA account. You'll need an email and a password.
- Look up when hearings are scheduled for your bill in both the senate and the house.
 - If the bill has been written and is online, take some time to read the bill.
- Sign-in and Sign up for testimony

Note: You will not see any way to be a witness on your bill until 8:00am on the hearing sign-up day.

 - House sign-up occurs two days before a hearing and must be done between 8:00am and 6:00pm (Set your alarm to remind yourself) <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-ent-faqs.pdf>
 - Senate sign-up occurs two days before a hearing and must be done between 8:00am and 6:00pm <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/current-eee-faqs.pdf>
 - Are you planning to submit written testimony? Do you also want to provide oral testimony? Do you want to do that in-person or remotely? These are all options when you provide testimony.
- For oral: Be sure to show up. Testimony begins at 1pm, but you may have to wait until your bill is discussed. Plan to be available the whole afternoon.

Written and Oral Testimony

- Written:
 - Be sure to put your name, address, and organization if you're representing one.
 - Include the bill number, hearing date, senate or house committee, and position at the top of the page.
 - HBXYZ or SBZYX
 - Date of Hearing
 - Committee hearing the bill (e.g. EEE, GLE, ENT)
 - Position: e.g. FAV, FAV with amendments, UNFAV, Informational
 - Repeat your position (e.g. favorable, favorable with amendments) in your first sentence
 - Sign your name
 - Save it as a PDF! Include the bill number, your name/organization, position in the name of the file. E.G. HBXYZ_ SierraClub_FAV (Note only approved testimony may be submitted on behalf of Sierra Club)
- Oral, we are limited to 4 people in favor.
 - You only have 2 minutes for testimony, use it wisely
 - Be respectful
 - Write it out or at least write your main points
 - Practice to be sure you can say what you wish in the limited time. You may be permitted to finish your sentence when the bell chimes, but that's it.
 - If you provide facts, be prepared to support them with the reputable source.

Create your my MGA Account and Look Up Your Bill

mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/#

Recipes Stuff to Read Environmental Arti... Environmental Re... Sierra Club View Document -... State-County Gov Google docs Other Bookmarks

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES | LEGISLATIVE AUDITS

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MEMBERS COMMITTEES MEETINGS LEGISLATION BUDGET LAWS FLOOR ACTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT

Fiscal Briefing
Click the link above to view the Fiscal Briefing document

Session Information

Status

Senate	House
Adjourned	Adjourned
until Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM	until Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Legislation

Senate Bills Introduced	Senate Synopsis of New Legislation	Bills Passed by Both Chambers
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Look up your bill info here HB??? Or SB???

Search i.e. Bill search, keyword

MyMGA

- Sign In
- Register
- Forgot Password

This is where you register your account, sign in, etc. Hover your mouse to see the drop down menu.

Use This Bill Tracker to Learn More About the Bill

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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SB0836

Original Chamber **Opposite Chamber** **Passed Both Chambers**

1ST READING REFERRAL TO CMTE 2ND READING 3RD READING 1ST READING REFERRAL TO CMTE 2ND READING 3RD READING REVIEW IN ORIGINAL CHAMBER CONF. CMTE (IF NECESSARY) TO G

Title Maryland Native Plants Program

Sponsored by Senator [Brooks](#)

Status In the Senate - Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.

Analysis

Synopsis Establishing the Maryland Native Plants Program to encourage and promote the use and sale of plants native to Maryland at retail garden centers and wholesale nurseries and to educate the public on native plants; requiring the University of Maryland Extension to administer the Program in coordination with the Department of Agriculture; requiring the University of Maryland Extension to hire an extension agent as a native plant specialist for certain purposes; etc.

Committees Original: [Education, Energy, and the Environment](#)

Details Cross-filed with: [HB0950](#)

Your bill has been written and is now available here.

Click here to find the same information in the house for the same bill. The house and senate bill numbers are rarely the same

You have a hearing date with Education, Energy and the Environment on this date

Witness Sign-up

Your bill will show up here on the day you are permitted to register as a witness. Scroll to find your bill. House bills are below.

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Search i.e. Bill search, keyword

f t YouTube

MyMGA: marielaporte@ve

MEMBERS COMMITTEES MEETINGS LEGISLATION BUDGET LAWS FLOOR ACTIONS SEARCH & ARCHIVE

Witness Signup

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Witness Signup

FAQ

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Save Cancel Signed Up Items Committees All

After you've uploaded check your testimony here

You must register as favorable, favorable with amendments or opposed

This is where you upload your PDF file for written testimony

SENATE

Budget and Taxation Committee

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - 1:00 PM

<input type="checkbox"/>	SB0267	Senator Watson	Internet Gaming - Authorization and Implementation	<input type="text" value="--Organization--"/>	<input type="text" value="--Position--"/>	<input type="text" value="--Testimony--"/>	<input type="button" value="Upload File(s)"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SB0309	Senator West	State Employment - Local School Employees - Clarification	<input type="text" value="--Organization--"/>	<input type="text" value="--Position--"/>	<input type="text" value="--Testimony--"/>	<input type="button" value="Upload File(s)"/>

**BE SURE TO SAVE
AFTER YOU
UPLOAD YOUR PDF
FILE!**

Check to Be Sure You've Registered Correctly Before Signing Out

The screenshot shows the Maryland General Assembly's MyMGATracking website. The browser address bar displays mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/MyMGATracking/WitnessSignupEnrolled. The page header includes the Maryland General Assembly logo, a search bar with the text "i.e. Bill search, keyword", and social media links for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and MyMGA. The navigation menu includes: MEMBERS, COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, LEGISLATION, BUDGET, LAWS, FLOOR ACTIONS, and SEARCH & ARCHIVES. On the left, a sidebar contains links for FAQ, Change Password, Edit Account, Cancel Account, and Sign Out. The main content area displays a table of enrolled bills with the following columns: Committee, Hearing Date, Bill, Sponsor, Title, Organization, Position, Type, and Files.

Committee	Hearing Date	Bill	Sponsor	Title	Organization	Position	Type	Files
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee	02/15/2023 - 1:00 PM	SB0483	Senator Lewis Young	Private Well Safety Act of 2023	None	Favorable With Amendments	Virtual - Both	SB483_M_LA_PORT_E_FW_A_Testimony.pdf
Environment and Transportation Committee	02/15/2023 - 1:00 PM	HB0299	Delegate Lehman	Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody	none	Favorable	Virtual - Both	HB299_M_LAPORTE_FAV_ENT.pdf

At the bottom right, there is a pagination control with buttons for First, Previous, 1 (selected), Next, and Last.

This shows I signed up to provide testimony on two bills. It has the dates and times, my position and that I have chosen virtual testimony in addition to written (both). It also shows the file that I uploaded. I save my files with the bill number, my name, if I'm providing personal testimony, my position (e.g. FAV, FWA) and that it's a PDF.

