

How to Testify on a Maryland Bill

Provided in partnership with [Interfaith Action for Human Rights](#)
A Mother's Cry | www.amotherscry.org

Make Your Voice Heard

Families impacted by incarceration often know the system best—but are rarely heard. Through Maryland's General Assembly (MGA), you can submit written testimony or speak directly to lawmakers about bills that affect your loved ones. This information, provided in partnership with Interfaith Action for Human Rights, will help you navigate the process with confidence. Follow the steps below or download this easy-to-follow guide to learn how to participate.

Step 1: Create Your MyMGA Account

1. Go to the Maryland General Assembly website: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov>
 2. Click the "MyMGA" icon at the top right and select "Register."
Or go directly to: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Account/Register/Tracking>
 3. Fill in your name, email, and password.
 4. You'll receive a confirmation email—click the link to activate your account.
 5. Once activated, log in anytime at the Witness Sign-Up page:
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/MyMGATracking/WitnessSignup>
- Tip: You can list your organization or community group (like A Mother's Cry) in your profile.

Step 2: Know When to Sign Up

You can only sign up to testify a few days before the bill's hearing. The system closes after that window.

House of Delegates: Opens 2 business days before the hearing (usually 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Senate: Usually 1–2 business days before (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

Always check the specific committee's rules on the bill's hearing page.

Step 3: Sign Up to Testify on a Bill

1. Log in to your account at
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/MyMGATracking/WitnessSignup>
2. Search for the bill number or look through the list for the hearing you want.
3. Choose your position: Favorable, Favorable with Amendments, Opposed, or Information Only.
4. Choose how you want to testify: Written Only, Oral Only, or Both.
5. Fill in your name (must match your account) and organization if applicable.
6. Submit! If you're testifying virtually, you'll get a link by email.

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Step 4: Upload Written Testimony

If you're submitting written testimony:

1. Write your statement in Word or Google Docs.
2. Save it as a PDF (required format).
3. Upload it during the sign-up window.

If you miss the deadline, check the committee's FAQ—some may accept late testimony.

Step 5: On the Day of the Hearing

- The hearing schedule (bill order) is usually posted by noon on the hearing day.
- Be ready when your bill is called.
- If testifying virtually, join early and use the same name you registered with.
- Stay respectful and follow all time limits.

Quick Links

- Maryland General Assembly Home: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov>
- Register for a MyMGA Account:
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Account/Register/Tracking>
- Witness Sign-Up Page:
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/MyMGATracking/WitnessSignup>
- Video Tutorials: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Information/VideoTutorials>