

131st Maine Legislature
Committee meeting guidance for the public/interested parties
January 2023

Pursuant to recent guidance issued by the Presiding Officers, the 131st Legislature will be returning to in-person committee meetings. The following is intended to provide guidance on offering testimony at a public hearing and observing committee work sessions.

Livestream (and archive) of committee meetings

Committee meetings are now livestreamed using the Legislature's streaming service (not YouTube). You may access the livestream (or archive) by going to the date of the committee meeting on the Legislature's Calendar (<https://legislature.maine.gov/Calendar/>).

Public hearings

As usual, the manner in which testimony is taken during a public hearing, as well as the conduct of hearings generally, will be determined by the committee chairs.

• Testifying before a committee:

Persons wanting to offer testimony to a committee may do so by attending the meeting in person in the committee room or by registering to testify over Zoom using the testimony submission portal (<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>). Generally, registration is required no later than 30 minutes prior to scheduled start of that day's hearing(s). Once that registration is complete, you will receive additional information regarding acquiring a Zoom meeting link that can be used to join the meeting remotely during the public hearing.

Unless otherwise specified by the chairs, such as in the case of large public hearings, no pre-registration is required for in-person hearing testimony.

• Written testimony:

A person testifying over Zoom can submit their written testimony by uploading it through the registration portal (<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>).

Although committee clerks will endeavor to provide legislators with hard copies of testimony submitted electronically prior to a hearing, such distribution before or during a public hearing cannot be guaranteed. A person who testifies in the committee room and has written testimony, should provide **20 hard copies** for distribution to the committee. (This testimony may be uploaded through the portal *in addition* to hard copy distribution.)

Work sessions and other committee meetings

For committee work sessions and other committee meetings (e.g., committee orientation, committee briefings, etc.), persons wanting to observe such meetings may do so in person or using the video streaming options described above

Because work sessions (and orientations, briefings and presentations) for the 131st Legislature are in-person meetings, interested parties and members of the public should plan on attending these types of committee meetings in person in the committee room or observing the meeting video live. As always, participation by interested parties and members of the public at work sessions and other committee meetings will be by invitation only and at the discretion of the chairs, including the manner of participation (in-person or electronic).

Persons in need of accommodations should contact the Legislative Information Office as soon as possible at (207) 287-1692 or ljo@legislature.maine.gov