

Testifying/Submitting Testimony

Testimony Guidelines and Committee FAQ's

- Anyone wishing to testify in person on any bill must sign-in on the electronic witness sign-up computers by 8:30 A.M. on the day of the hearing (2/15). The sign-up computers are in the lobby outside the committee room.
- Testifiers – please do not read your written testimony. Please limit your testimony to no more than three minutes.
- Testifiers should form panels of four whenever possible so that they can go up together. Following testimony by a panel of four, committee members may ask questions.
- Written testimony must be submitted no later than two hours prior to the scheduled start of the hearing (generally, 11:00 A.M.).
- *For Baltimore City Delegation Hearings, which start at 9:00 A.M., you must submit the day before at 4:00 P.M. **Please send written testimony to info@bmoreneighborly.org and we'll make sure your testimony gets into the record.***
- Written testimony must include the following on the front page: the bill number, the name of the individual or organization submitting the testimony, and their position (Support, Support with Amendments, Oppose, or Informational).
- Thirty copies should be submitted to the committee clerk in the committee room. Electronic testimony – facsimile or email – is not accepted.
- The order in which bills are listed on the schedule is not necessarily the order in which the bills will be heard.
- FOOD AND DRINK ARE NOT PERMITTED in the audience area and cell phones should be turned off.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- If I am testifying on a bill, is it necessary to have written testimony? No. However, if you do have written testimony, please submit 30 copies to committee staff by 11:00 A.M. the day of the hearing so that it may be distributed. *For Baltimore City Delegation Hearings, which start at 9:00 A.M., you must submit the day before at 4:00 P.M.*
- May I submit written testimony prior to the day of the bill hearing? Yes, early in-person submission of testimony is welcome. Please do not mail testimony.
- Do I have to come in person to listen to a bill hearing? Committee bill hearings are streamed live over the Internet and may be accessed at

Delegates Contact

| Delegate | District | Phone | Email |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| Delegate Frank Conaway Jr. | 40 | (410) 841-3189 | frank.conaway@house.state.md.us |
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Sample Email/Letter

The SUBJECT line on the message that is sent should simply read: "VOTE YES ON HB 959, HB 965, HB 980"

Modify as you wish to make your own personal point!

Dear Delegates,

I urge you to vote FOR HB 959, HB 965, AND HB 980.

I am reaching out to ask for your support for four proposals that will help improve Baltimore City residents' ability to address persistently problematic alcohol outlets that threaten the health, safety and well-being of area residents.

I believe these bills will 1) remove loopholes encountered by neighborhood organizations that impede their ability to effectively protest the license renewal of problem alcohol outlets, 2) limit the ability of problem outlets to avoid being penalized for their bad behavior, and 3) provide immediate protection for communities where violent acts have been committed in a licensed establishment.

[Insert your own story]

Given the city's need to address crime and violence with a comprehensive strategy, we see these bills as being integral to and totally supportive of that objective considering alcohol's role in violent crime in our city.

I respectfully urge you to vote FOR HB 959, HB 960, HB 965, AND HB 980; these bills will help create a healthier and safer Baltimore.

Please vote FOR HB 959, HB 965, AND HB 980.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name, address, phone here]