Guide to Submitting Comments and Testifying Virtually

2022 General Assembly Session



First Things First...

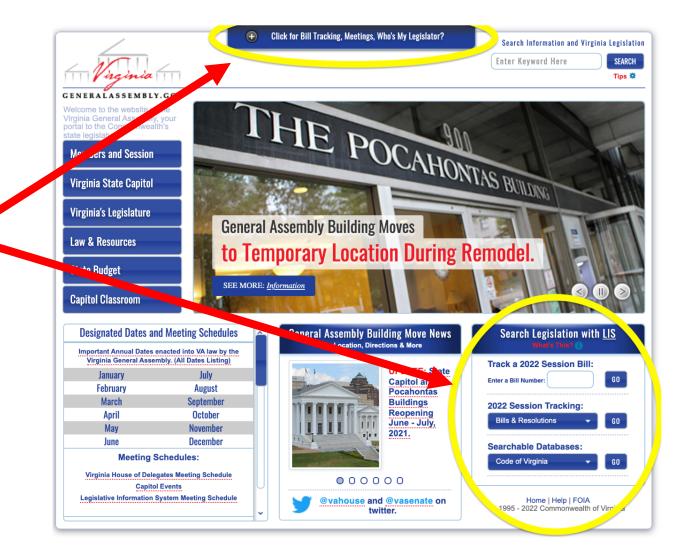
- Legislators want to hear from their constituents. While comments are welcome from anyone in the public, you hold the most power when you identify yourself as a constituent.
- Not sure who your legislator is? You can visit the <u>Who's My Legislator</u> website to learn who your State and Federal representatives are.
- Under each of your representatives' names, you can **click on** "*more info*" to see their contact information, committee assignments, and which bills they are patroning.





Learn more about a bill

- You can find a summary of a bill and the full text by visiting the <u>General</u> <u>Assembly</u> website.
 - Click on the bar across the top of the page *or* enter a bill number directly in the search box on the home page.
- Once you enter the bill number and hit "go", the Legislative Information System website will load all information related to the bill.
 - In addition to bill text, you can view all of the bill patrons, which committee the bill has been assigned to, which legislators sit on that committee, and any voting history related to the bill.





Ready to take action?

- The first step you can take is **calling or emailing your legislator directly** to ask them to support or oppose a specific bill.
 - House of Delegates contact information
 - <u>Senate contact information</u>
- Remember that bills are designated by their point of origin (the House or Senate) by starting with "HB" or "SB".
 - In the first half of the General Assembly session, you will contact your legislator from the corresponding branch of government (HB = Delegate; SB = Senator).
 - Once we reach the middle of session, each chamber will have heard all of their own bills. The bills that have passed the chamber will now be heard by the opposite chamber (we call this 'crossover').
 - At this point, you will need to advocate for a bill again to see it across the finish line. For bills that originated in the House, you will now need to contact your Senator. For bills that originated in the Senate, you will contact your Delegate.



House of Delegates – Submitting Comments & Testifying

- The next step you can take is to submit a comment or testify (in person or virtually) in support/opposition of a specific bill before the committee.
- Open the <u>House Meeting Schedule</u>, look for the committee that your bill has been assigned to, and click on "view agenda".
- Once you confirm that your bill is on the agenda, you can click on *"signup to speak or submit comments"*.

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	View Agenda Privileges and Elections - Subcommittee #2 (O'Quinn, Israel D.) View Agenda View Agenda		



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HB311 - Krizek

HB314 - Krizek

For

House of Delegates – Submitting Comments & Testifying

- On the next page, select whether you would like to attend the meeting remotely to speak, provide written comments, or both.
 - If you signup to speak remotely, we strongly urge you to ALSO submit written comments. There are time constraints during meetings and the possibility of technical difficulties.
- They ask if you are speaking on behalf of an organization. Remember, you are speaking as a constituent, so you are representing yourself, not an organization (unless you are a business owner). You can leave this blank.
- As you scroll down the page, you will indicate which bills you are speaking for/against and you will have space to provide written comments. Click submit when you're done.
 - You may also attach a file, so you can consider attaching a relevant fact sheet or photo.

Submit a request to provide testimony at the
L/26/2022 Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources
Agriculture Subcommittee meeting.

SPEAK

Public can speak to bills in this House Committee meeting by attending remotely via Zoom[™] and speaking to Delegates. Submitting written testimony can also be submitted for review by the committee. These testimony methods can be used together.

NOTE: Due to time constraints, not all citizens who sign up to speak will be able to do so and will not receive a Zoom invite. However, written comments are always provided to committee members for review. All streaming committee meetings are shown on the House Meeting Schedule.

Public signup to speak before a committee closes at midnight for morning meetings and noon for afternoon meetings.

First Name: * Required	Last Name: *	I	Title:	Pronoun:
			Select a Title 🗧	Select a
Email: *				
Your email address allows you to sign up t	to share testimony and receive no	ifications to join virtual meetin	gs.	
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Against No Position

For Against No Position



House of Delegates – Submitting Comments & Testifying

• Additional Information:

- Many of our bills will be heard in the <u>House Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources</u> committee, which meets on Wednesdays at 8:30 am. However, before a bill reaches the full committee, it must pass out of the subcommittee. House Ag has 3 subcommittees that meet before full committee meetings
 - Agriculture Subcommittee (Wednesdays at 4:00 pm)
 - <u>Chesapeake Subcommittee</u> (Mondays at 4:00 pm)
 - <u>Natural Resources Subcommittee</u> (Wednesdays at 7:00 am)
- The full schedule of 2022 General Assembly Session meetings is available here.
- Meeting agendas are typically posted 1-2 days before the committee meets.
- Registration to speak before a committee opens as soon as a meeting agenda is posted. If the meeting occurs in the morning, registration will close at midnight prior to the meeting. If the meeting occurs in the afternoon, registration will close at noon.
- If you are testifying virtually, you will receive a Zoom link via email approximately 30 minutes before the meeting.



Senate – Submitting Comments & Testifying

- The Senate's webpages function a bit differently from the House.
- To check the agenda for Senate committees, visit their <u>Dockets</u> webpage and select the committee your are interested in; this will open the Legislative Information System (LIS) website. Click on the date of the meeting to see the agenda.
- For subcommittee agendas, click on the "subcommittees" tab and click on the subcommittee of interest. Once the LIS website opens, click on "committee dockets".
- You can view a full schedule of the Senate Committee meetings <u>here</u>.

Virginia	SENATE OF VIRGINIA
GENERALASSEMBLY.GOV	
	Dockets The committee docket contains a list of bills and resolutions, which is prepared by the committe clerk, of all legislation pending before a standing committee or a subcommittee. The order in w bills are taken up is determined by the chairman of the committee.
Membership	
Leadership	Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Commerce and Labor Education and Health Finance and Appropriations
Committees	General Laws and Technology Judiciary Local Government
Subcommittees	Privileges and Elections
Conservation and Natural Resources Commerce and Labor Education and Health Finance and Appropriations General Laws and Technology Judiciary Local Government Privileges and Elections Rehabilitaion and Social Services Rules Transportation	Rehabilitation and Social Services Rules Transportation
Floor Minutes	



Senate – Submitting Comments & Testifying

- Open the <u>Senate Meeting Schedule</u> and look for the committee that your bill has been assigned to.
- At the top of the page, you will be able to click on the committee link to signup for virtual public testimony.

Virginia Senate Live Session Video Stream

To watch a meeting, click on View Event, beside the meeting you would like to watch.

To register to speak, please click on the meeting you would like to attend listed below.

January 26, 2022 - <u>General Laws and Technology</u> - SR 3 - 30 min. after adjournment January 26, 2022 - <u>Judiciary</u> - SR A - 30 min. after adjournment January 27, 2022 - <u>Education and Health</u> - SR A - 8:00 am

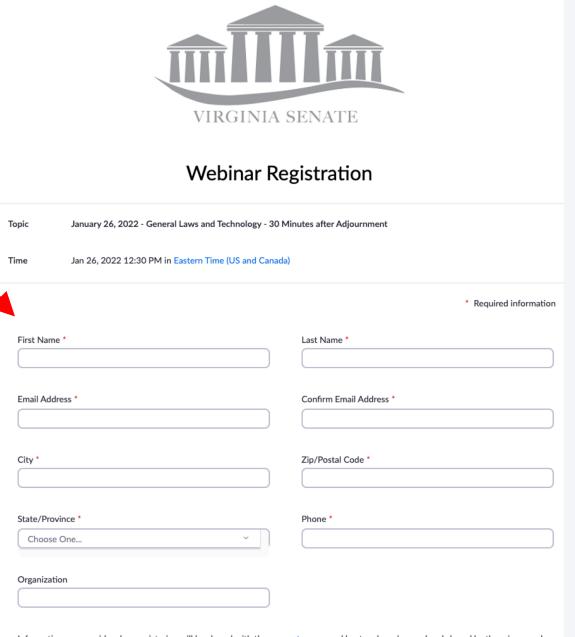
Upcoming Events Name	Date	
January 26, 2022 - SFAC: Public Safety Subcommittee - 6th Floor, Senate Leadership Conference Room - 7:30 am	January 26, 2022 - 06:30 AM	
January 26, 2022 - Senate Finance and Appropriations - Comm Room B - 9:00 am	January 26, 2022 - 08:00 AM	
January 25, 2022 - Session - 12:00 m	In Progress	<u>View</u> Event
January 26, 2022 - General Laws and Technology - SR 3 - 30 min. after adjournment	January 26, 2022 - 12:30 PM	
January 26, 2022 - Judiciary - SR A - 30 min. after adjournment	January 26, 2022 - 12:30 PM	
January 27, 2022 - Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources: Gaming Subcommittee - 5th Floor, sub com room 3 - 8:00 am	January 27, 2022 - 07:00 AM	
January 27, 2022 - Education and Health - SR A - 8:00 am	January 27, 2022 - 07:00 AM	



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Senate – Submitting Comments & Testifying

- Provide your contact information to complete your registration.
- After you register, you will receive an email from the Clerk and during the meeting, you will be asked to 'raise your hand' in Zoom if you would like to testify for/against a specific bill.
- If other organizations/people speak before you and hit the points that you wanted to make, you can say that you agree with [name of partner/person] and [support/oppose] the bill. There are many people waiting to speak, so brevity is appreciated!



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Information you provide when registering will be shared with the account owner and host and can be used and shared by them in accordance with their Terms and Privacy Policy.