

How to Watch/Testify at a Remote Legislative Hearing

For those who are still learning, here are the instructions for participating in remote legislative committee hearings.

Each committee will have a Zoom link and a YouTube link that are used for its full schedule of hearings on a given day. If you merely want to observe and listen to a hearing, you just need to find the right day and committee on the [House calendar](#) or [Senate calendar](#) and click on the Zoom or YouTube link. (If the House calendar does not have YouTube links, you can go to the [House of Representatives' YouTube page](#) and find the right day and committee.) As with in-person hearings, there is no guarantee that the hearings will be running on time, so don't necessarily expect that the committee will be on the bill you're interested in if you join exactly on time. You may need to wait a while.

It is requested that if you are only watching/listening to a hearing and not planning to speak, you use YouTube, rather than Zoom. The fewer people on the Zoom platform, the easier it is for the legislative staff to find those who want to speak and “unmute” them as appropriate.

To speak at a hearing, or to register a position without speaking, go to the [House remote testimony instructions](#) or [Senate remote testimony instructions](#) (links are on the right side of the [General Court home page](#)). Note that although the instructions look similar, they are not interchangeable—*i.e.*, you must use the House link for a House hearing and the Senate link for a Senate hearing.

The instructions contain a link to sign up for hearings. When you click on that link, you will see drop-down menus to select the date, the committee, and the bill number. You will also need to provide some basic information about yourself, indicate your position on the bill, and check a box if you want to speak. It is very easy and should take about two minutes. Please note that you need to sign up at least 30 minutes before the committee's first hearing of the day (which will not necessarily be your hearing). You can sign up earlier than that, even several days before the hearing.

Note that you will not receive an acknowledgment that you have registered, nor will you receive a link to join the hearing. Instead, on the day of the hearing, you will need to go to the Zoom link (if you are planning to testify—otherwise use the YouTube link) in the House or Senate calendar (see above) to join the meeting. When the committee chair calls you to speak, you should “raise your hand,” and the host will “unmute” you. If you were late in signing up (or failed entirely), you will still have an opportunity to speak, as the committee chair will ask before closing the hearing whether anyone else wants to speak, at which point you can raise your hand to be recognized—but you really should try to sign up early.

Click on a committee to see what they're doing that day.

Click on the bill number and you can read the text and who the sponsors are.

Links to Remote Meetings

[House Calendar](#) *(meeting links are in the Calendar Notice pdf)*

[HOUSE REMOTE TESTIMONY](#)

[House Remote Testimony and Sign in Directions](#)

[Senate Calendar](#) *(meeting links are in the Calendar Notice pdf)*

[SENATE REMOTE TESTIMONY](#)

[Senate Remote Testimony and Sign in Directions](#)

[Click here to report Senate meeting technical issues via email](#)