



# **How a Bill Becomes Law & Testifying 101**

# Proposing a Bill

Legislators introduce bills in 2 ways.

1. Through Committee
2. Bill Proposal system


Note: During even year legislative sessions legislators are only allowed to introduce bills with the “principal purpose” that relates to budgetary, revenue or financial matters.



# Committee process

1. Screening (private)
2. Committee meeting (public)
3. Screening Again
4. Final Action
  - a. Due by the JF Deadline

## **Potential actions to vote on:**

1. Reserve for subject matter hearing (aka Public Hearing)
  2. Draft
  3. No Action
- 


# Public Hearings

## Purpose is to:

- Gather further insight and information from the public or experts
- Give the public a chance to organize on an issue

## How to testify:

Testimony is currently available remotely. Go to [CGA.CT.GOV](http://CGA.CT.GOV) → click on Session Items → under General click [Bulletins](#)

- Bulletins are updated daily and will notice the public of hearings at least 5 DAYS in advance.
  - Witnesses can sign up to give **live testimony** up to the day before the hearing by 3pm.
  - Written testimony can be submitted at anytime
- 



## Bulletins Session Year 2022

For previous year session bulletins, go to the [Advanced Legislative Document Search](#) page and check the **Bulletins** checkbox in the "Session, Committee" column. Select the checkbox for the year(s) needed in the "Document Text" column.



March 18, 2022

March 17, 2022

March 16, 2022

March 15, 2022

March 14, 2022

March 11, 2022

March 10, 2022

March 9, 2022

March 8, 2022

March 7, 2022

March 4, 2022

March 3, 2022

March 2, 2022

March 1, 2022

February 28, 2022

February 25, 2022

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Joint Rule 6 (c) (i), the conduct for public hearings shall be the following:

Members of the public who wish to testify at a public hearing may place their names on a list, which shall be made available at a time and place to be determined by the chairpersons. Members of the public shall either (A) place their own name on the list, if they wish to testify, or (B) place the name of one other person on the list who will testify. Members of the public placing the name of another person on the list shall also place their own name on the list next to the name of the person who will testify. The placement of another person's name on the list by a person who receives a fee solely for that service shall be ineffective and the person so named shall not be permitted to testify.

### **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022**

The Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on **Friday, March 18, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.** via **Zoom**. The public hearing can be viewed via **YouTube Live**. In addition, the public hearing may be recorded and broadcast live on **CT-N.com**. Individuals who wish to testify via Zoom must register using the **On-line Testimony Registration Form**. Registration will close on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be posted on the Appropriations Committee website on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony. If you do not have internet access, you may provide testimony via telephone. To register to testify by phone, call the Phone Registrant Line at (860) 240-0033 to leave your contact information. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to [APptestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:APptestimony@cga.ct.gov). The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Teachers' Retirement System; Increasing Legislative Pay; PILOT re Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment; The Unemployment Trust Fund; Behavioral Health Funding and Oversight; Funding of: HCBS for the Elderly or People with Alzheimer's Disease; Housatonic River Clean-up; Operation Wingspan; Dredging in Old Lyme; Farm Viability Grant Program; Office of the Victim Advocate

Proposed S.B. No. 36 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE FARM VIABILITY GRANT PROGRAM.

Proposed S.B. No. 37 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR AN EXPANSION OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE ELDERLY OR HAVE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

Proposed S.B. No. 38 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR HOUSATONIC RIVER CLEAN-UP.

Scroll down until you see  
“Public Hearings”

You will notice:

1. Organized by committee
2. Detailed instructions
3. Subject matter description
4. Bills that are open for testimony
5. Public disclosure notice
6. Can watch on Youtube or CT-N

# Tips for Testifying & Bill Tracking

Bills can be tracked using the links on the CT General Assembly website:

[CT General Assembly Bill Tracking and Calendar](#)

Link to CGA Glossary:

[Glossary - Legislative Terms & Definitions](#)

**HB05352**

## **Withholding recess as a form of punishment**

Updated March 3, 2022

To prevent a school employee from withholding recess from a student in grades kindergarten to five, inclusive, as a form of discipline. [Find the bill's full text and more information here.](#)

### **REPORTER'S NOTE**

Lawmakers on legislative Committee on Children stress the need to [balance teacher tools and kids' need for outdoor play.](#)

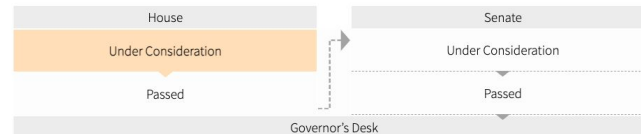
[← Return to main page.](#)

Status

Latest votes

Take action

This bill **is under consideration in the House**. This means the bill is in the legislative process, and if passed by the House it will be vetted by the Senate. The next steps could be debate in one or more committees, or if the bill has passed out of committee it may be debated on the floor before a vote is scheduled.



# Tips for Testifying & Bill tracking cont...

What to expect going live?

- You will go in order, so there may be a long wait
- Committee members may ask questions
- You will be timed and cut off when time is up

How to write testimony?

- Focus on personal narratives/experiences, but connect it to facts and the bill.
- Many organizations supporting or opposing a bill provide templates and guides as well to use for various issues.
- Link to CT General Assembly how to submit testimony:

[Guide to Testifying](#)





# Sample Written Testimony

1. Letter format
2. Address leadership and the committee
3. Make sure to name the bill
4. Be clear on your stance
5. Call to action at the end
6. Include name, and contact info

March xx, 2019

Chairpersons, Flexer, and Fox, and Committee Members  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Written Testimony in Support of the Early Voting Amendment Bill, HJR 161.**

Dear Chairpersons Flexer and Fox, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HJR 161, a "**Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-Excuse Absentee Voting.**"

My name is sxxxx, (add your organizational affiliation, if any), and I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HJR 161**.

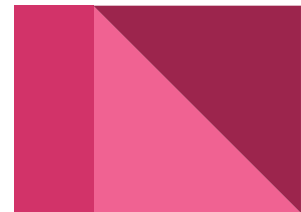
**(Your testimony -- *Writing persuasive testimony.*** Often the most persuasive testimony is based on personal experience. You or someone you know has experienced the problem that is to be addressed by the bill, describes the experience and makes convincing arguments that the solution proposed through the bill would address that problem.)

It's time to join 40 other states and give us greater access to voting by making it more convenient here in CT. I urge you to consider your constituents' wishes, vote in favor of HJR 161, and allow us to have a say on early voting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name  
Phone #  
Email address



# Potential Final Actions

## **Joint Favorable (“JF”):**

The bill, with no changes, is recommended for passage by the full House and Senate.

## **Joint Favorable Change of Reference:**


The bill as written is recommended for passage, but first must be considered by (“is referred to”) another committee with jurisdiction on the bill.

## **Joint Favorable Substitute (“JFS”):**

The bill is passed favorably from the committee with either technical or substantive changes to make it recommended for passage by the full House and Senate.

## **Consent Calendar:**

A group of bills voted on, without debate, by a single roll call vote. A single member may have a bill removed from the consent calendar merely by asking.



# What happens next? After the Committee deadlines?

Bills that are ready will go to the House and Senate for screening.

- Each Caucus has a Screening Committee
- Decisions are reflected in a daily “Go List”

Bills that are put on the “Go List” make it to the House and Senate floor and if voted favorably will make it to the Governor’s desk.



# Other avenues to advocate for a bill

- Writing public op-eds
- Circulating petitions and letters
- Public demonstrations
- Join an existing organization or movement
- Voice your support or opposition to your local party and local stakeholders

Note: Once a bill gets a final action voted on by a committee that does not mean you should stop applying pressure. Conversations are still occurring with senate and house leadership and stakeholders to consider which bills get voted on.



Question? Comments?

