

Section D Subcommittee Rules

Statement to open hearings:

The committee cannot intervene in court cases, department hearings, or other actions on behalf of individuals. We can recommend changes to laws. If you have a personal experience that illustrates a policy change you'd like us to consider, please briefly describe the experience. However, we ask you to avoid mentioning names or directing your comments to individuals in the audience. Instead, please address your comments to me, the chairman, and focus on the changes you want us to consider.

Policy on public comment:

If members of the public wish to testify in a Section D hearing, oral statements will be limited to 3 minutes except in circumstances described below.

The time restriction on public comment does not apply to employees and officers of the executive and judicial branches who testify during a Section D hearing.

H30-60(2) requires that witnesses "be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record." Written public comment is useful for development of legislative history and, in many circumstances, will make the public input more coherent, concise, and helpful. Written public comment submitted in advance of a hearing may also facilitate questions from the committee.

Members of the public wishing to testify are not required to submit testimony in writing. However, if a person who chooses to provide oral testimony by Zoom or in person has submitted written public comment at least an hour in advance of the hearing in which they wish to testify, the chair may allow more than three minutes for the oral public comment without objection from a majority of the subcommittee. In general, the subcommittee may benefit from hearing more from witnesses who have spent significant time preparing for their testimony by putting their thoughts in writing. Not all written comment will be substantive and extensive enough to merit more than three minutes for oral testimony. It is improbable that any witness who has submitted written testimony will be allowed more than 10 minutes to testify.