

What to expect

A committee may consider several bills during an afternoon. The committee chairperson will announce the order in which bills will be heard, the rules for testifying and whether there will be a time limit on your testimony.

The length of time spent on each bill varies, depending largely on the number of people testifying, the length of their testimony and the number of questions asked by committee members.

Each bill first will be presented by the senator who sponsors it. Committee members may follow up with questions. The committee chairperson then will ask proponents of the bill to testify. Then opponents of the bill will be invited to testify, followed by those giving neutral testimony.

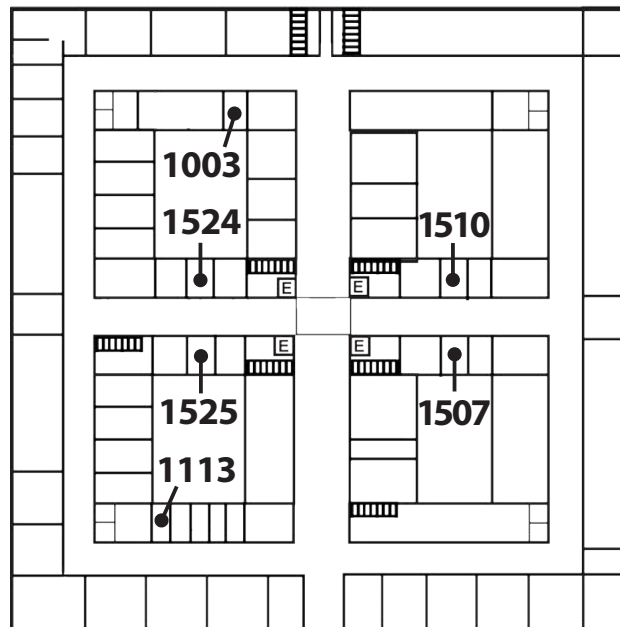
Addressing committee members or testifiers from the audience is prohibited. Applause and other public demonstrations also are prohibited. Please turn off phones to avoid disturbing the hearing.

Senators routinely come and go during hearings. They have other commitments, including the presentation of bills in other committees that are meeting simultaneously.

To find the names and contact information of committee chairpersons, visit NebraskaLegislature.gov/committees.

Hearing rooms

First Floor



Committee	Room	Dates
Agriculture	1524	T
Appropriations	1003	M, T, W, Th, F
Banking, Commerce & Insurance	1507	M, T
Business & Labor	1524	M
Education	1525	M, T
General Affairs	1510	M
Government, Military & Veterans Affairs	1507	W, Th, F
Health & Human Services	1510	W, Th, F
Judiciary	1113	W, Th, F
Natural Resources	1525	W, Th, F
Nebraska Retirement Systems	1525	at call of Chair
Revenue	1524	W, Th, F
Transportation & Telecommunications	1113	M, T
Urban Affairs	1510	T

Testifier Tips



About committees

Bills introduced in the Legislature must receive a public hearing by a legislative committee. These hearings are an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to state senators regarding the creation of Nebraska laws.

Everyone is allowed to testify at public hearings and all testimony is included in the official committee record.

The Nebraska Legislature has 14 standing committees:

- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- Business and Labor
- Education
- General Affairs
- Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
- Health and Human Services
- Judiciary
- Natural Resources
- Nebraska Retirement Systems
- Revenue
- Transportation and Telecommunications
- Urban Affairs

Each of these committees has six to nine members.

Hearing locations and times

Public hearings on bills typically are held in the afternoons during the first half of the legislative session. Committees have regularly scheduled rooms and meeting days, although they sometimes meet in different rooms at varying times in order to accommodate testifiers or large audiences.

Hearings usually begin at 1:30 p.m. See the hearing room assignments and a Capitol map on the back of this brochure.

The weekly schedule of committee hearings is published on the last legislative day of the week throughout the legislative session.

The schedule is available on a table in front of the Clerk's Office, in the Sunday editions of the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald, in the weekly Unicameral Update (update.legislature.ne.gov) and at NebraskaLegislature.gov.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for you to attend a hearing, please call the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 402-471-2271.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, please call the Nebraska Relay System at 800-833-7352 (TTY) or 800-833-0920 (Voice).

Advance notice of 10 business days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

Public testimony

If you plan to provide copies of your testimony to the committee, please bring enough copies for each committee member, plus three more for support staff. You might call ahead to see if the committee prefers electronic submissions.

Please fill out the sheet provided in the hearing room prior to testifying. Once you are seated at the testifier's table, you must identify yourself, spell your name and state what organization you represent, if any. Speak directly into the microphone, as committee proceedings are transcribed.

Be prepared to limit your testimony to three to five minutes. If you also are providing written testimony, please summarize it rather than reading it verbatim.

Committee members may ask questions after your testimony. However, testifiers are not allowed to ask questions of committee members.

If you are not testifying in person on a bill and would like to submit a written position letter to be included in the official hearing record as an exhibit, the letter must be emailed or delivered to the office of the committee chairperson conducting the hearing on the bill by 5 p.m. CST on the last work day immediately preceding the hearing.

Additionally, the letter must include your name and address, state a position for, against or neutral on the bill in question and include a request for the letter to be included as part of the public hearing record.