

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative day # 8

RESOLUTION NO. 100 2019

Introduced by: Christiana Mercer Rigby

A RESOLUTION amending the Howard County Council Rules of Procedure to alter the time to sign up to testify at a public hearing.

Introduced and read first time on June 3, 2019.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on June 17, 2019.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted , Adopted with amendments ____, Failed ____, Withdrawn ____ by the County Council on July 1, 2019.

Certified by Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

- 1 b. Three minutes for each representative of an entity with multiple representatives
2 speaking on behalf of the entity; or
- 3 c. Five minutes for a single representative of a nonprofit organization or government
4 board, commission, or task force regardless of the number of members or supporters
5 who may testify as individuals.
- 6 (ii) Whenever multiple items of legislation are grouped together for purposes of hearing
7 testimony, the chairperson may extend the limits for a person testifying once about all the
8 items in the group.
- 9 (iii) To qualify as a representative of a nonprofit organization, or government board,
10 commission, or task force, the representative shall submit written certification from the entity
11 or a sworn affidavit that:
- 12 a. Demonstrates that the representative is authorized to offer testimony and take a position
13 to support, oppose, or amend the legislation on behalf of the entity; and
- 14 b. Indicates the number of members in the entity.
- 15 (iv) A certification or affidavit required by this subsection (b)(2) of this Rule shall be submitted
16 to the Administrator:
- 17 a. Electronically in advance of the hearing; or
- 18 b. In person at the hearing before giving testimony.
- 19 (3) Any individual wishing to testify shall sign up through a system provided by the Administrator.
20 The system shall include an opportunity to sign up in advance of the hearing and an on-site sign
21 up option that shall be available for the period that begins at least 30 minutes before the scheduled
22 time of the hearing. [[and that ends when testimony]] THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY
23 ends AT THE TIME THE HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN on the hearing's first day. The system
24 shall require that each person provide:
- 25 (i) Name and city or town of residence; and
- 26 (ii) Telephone number, email address, or mailing address.
- 27 (c) *Public Participation.* Any person desiring to speak on the matters or issues under consideration shall
28 sign up under subsection (b)(3) of this Rule and shall proceed when recognized by the Chairperson.

1 Upon initial recognition by the Chairperson, the person shall give the following information before
2 speaking to the issue:

3 (1) Name.

4 (2) Home city or town.

5 (3) Persons or organization represented or that he or she is speaking as a private citizen.

6 (4) Whether he or she is speaking for or against the subject matter under consideration.

7 (d) *Questions by Council.* Any member, upon recognition by the Chair, may question any speaker or
8 witness.

9 (e) *Written Testimony.* Written testimony on bills may be submitted to the Council at any time following
10 introduction.

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