

LR 1046 (THE GOVERNOR'S BIENNIAL BUDGET)
March 11th through March 22nd
First two weeks of the public hearings)

For members of the public wishing to provide oral testimony:

- Be aware that Capitol Police are conducting entry screening, similar to airport screening procedures, of all visitors to the Maine State House.
- Plan your testimony to be 3 minutes or less (this will be strictly enforced) – your *written* submittal can be as long as you want.
- If you want to give the committee any written materials, submit **40 copies** to the committee clerk for distribution. This will ensure that AFA and the Policy Committee of jurisdiction and their respective staffs receive copies.
- Written testimony or back-up materials should include your name and contact information.
- Fill in the sign-up sheet. The sheets will be located either in the hallway outside of the committee room or inside the committee room. Sign-ups will begin at 9:00 am for the morning hearings and 12 noon for the afternoon hearings. There will be no sign-ups after 5:00 pm though testimony will continue.
- If you are speaking on behalf of a group of people who wish to stand at the podium with you, please note the number after your name (e.g. Jane Doe (3))
- There will be a separate sign-up sheet for each policy committee of jurisdiction on each day.
- On Wednesday the 13th there will be TWO sign-ups for TAXATION: one for the MORNING block (Property Tax Review Board, DAFS (Except Mandate - BETE) and Language Parts N, O, P, Q and T) and a separate for the AFTERNOON Block (Treasurer, Mandate-BETE and Language Parts J, K, L and M)
- On Monday the 18th, there will be TWO sign-up sheets for Education: one for the MORNING block (cultural agencies, higher education and FAME) and a separate sheet for the AFTERNOON block (Charter School Commission, State Board of Education and the Department of Education. **Please note that Part H affecting Retired Teachers' Health Insurance will not be heard at this time. It will be scheduled for the final week of the public hearings.**

- The Welcome Center has been reserved for March 13th, 14th, 18th and 21st. If the committee room is full you may wait and listen to the proceedings in there. *The Chairs may periodically ask those not waiting to speak to go to the Welcome Center to listen to the proceedings. This will allow other interested parties a chance to attend the proceedings in person. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation.*
- When it's approaching your time to speak, the Chairs will call your name. *Please note that the Chairs may call a name out of order to ensure that they have heard testimony all of the topics within a hearing block noted on the sign-up sheets. If your name was called out of order and you were not able to respond, it will be re-called in its normal sequence.*
- The Chairs will periodically announce the next few speakers to give those waiting in the Welcome Center a chance to get to the committee room.
- When it's your turn to speak give the committee clerk any written materials you want distributed. The clerk will be to your right as you face the committee.

If you do not want to give oral testimony but want to express your opinion:

Come to the 2nd floor of the State House on the day of the hearing, fill out a "Comment Sheet" and put it in the specially marked box. The box will be located at either the "sign-up table" at the edge of the hall of flags or at the Clerk's desk in the committee room.

Or send an e-mail to holly.mullen@legislature.maine.gov and she will forward your comments to the committee members.

Or mail your comments to: AFA Committee, 5 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333