

Public Comment Guidelines

Developed for the Law and Justice Interim Committee
September 2013

- ALL testimony in front of the committee is broadcast live over the Internet and often TV. Meetings are also recorded. Those recordings are available to everyone online as part of the permanent, public record.
- Submitted documents are also public. If you have information that you wish to keep private (health conditions, names, addresses, phone numbers, SSNs, etc), please remove the information from your handout before submitting it to the committee.

- ✓ DO introduce yourself at the podium and spell your last name.
- ✓ DO explain to the committee what policy change you believe the committee should explore and recommend to the Legislature.
 - If you have a personal experience to illustrate your case, please summarize it briefly.
- ✓ DO limit your remarks to the subject of the agenda item and try to avoid repeating what others have said.
- ✓ DO be brief.
- ✓ DO bring handouts if you feel an issue needs to be explained in depth.
 - If you bring handouts, provide 15 copies (enough for the committee and staff).
 - Be sure to write your name and contact information on the handout so committee members can contact you.
- ✓ DO NOT use the names of individuals other than your own or your family member.
 - This includes the names of victims, offenders, judges, law enforcement personnel, and corrections or parole staff.
- ✓ DO NOT ask the committee to help with your individual case.
 - The committee cannot intervene in your situation to request new hearings, different sentences, or change outcomes of existing cases.
 - This committee CAN recommend changes be made to various laws. So be specific about what you would like to see changed and why. Those are comments the committee members can use to make the system work better for everyone.
- ✓ DO NOT ask the committee members questions.
 - This is the committee's chance to hear from you and to ask you questions.
- ✓ DO NOT clap, cheer, or boo about comments made by other speakers.

*If you violate any of the guidelines, the committee presiding officer can ask you to stop speaking.