

Legislative Hall 101 for Physicians

Provided by:
ByrdGomes and The
Willis Group



Legislative Schedule 2025

- The Legislature is ONLY in session on yellow days.
- On Tuesdays, the House and Senate have committee hearings starting at around 10am and then they each meet as a whole starting at around 2pm when they will work on legislation.
- On Wednesdays, the House and Senate have committee hearings starting around 10am. The House will meet as a whole at 2pm for housekeeping purposes, generally no bills are worked. The Senate will meet as a whole at 4pm to work on bills.
- On Thursdays, both House and Senate meet as a whole to work on bills.
- Session can end at any time as early 4:30pm on some days, but the days get longer(6:30-7pm) later in session.
- June 30th/July 1st is the last day of session.



Delaware General Assembly 2025 Legislative Calendar

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March						
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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	*24	25	*26	27	28
29	30					

Yellow	Legislative Session
Orange	JFC Hearings
Grey	DEFAC

Green	Spring Recess
Pink	Bond Hearings
Blue	JFC Markup

- * June 24: Legislative Session & Bond Bill Markup
- * June 26: Legislative Session & JFC - GIA Drafting

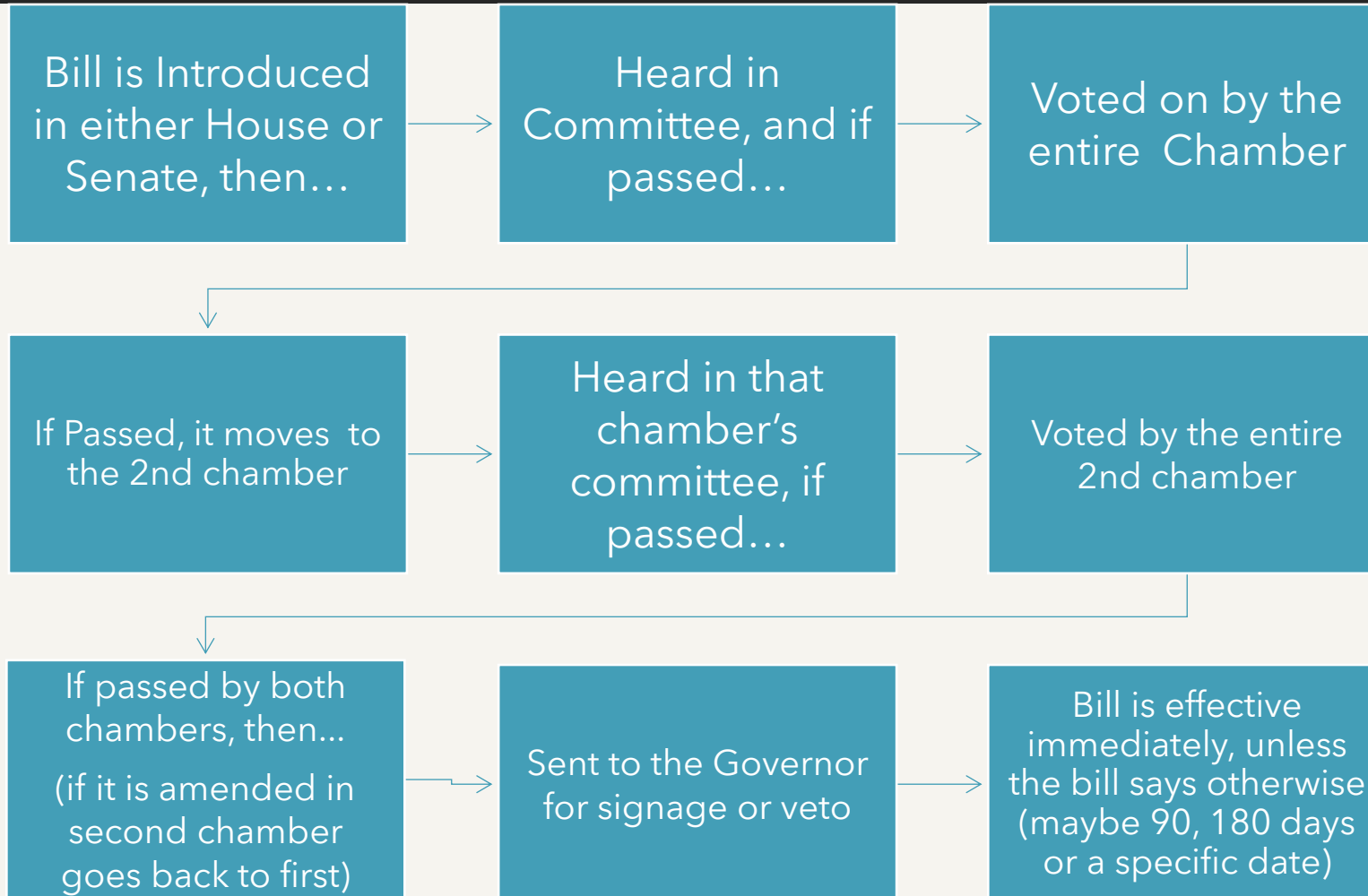
Holidays
January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17: Presidents' Day
April 18: Good Friday
May 26: Memorial Day
June 19: Juneteenth

Acronyms
DEFAC: Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council
GIA: Grant-in-Aid
JFC: Joint Finance Committee

Time in Legislative Hall

- ⌚ Generally, if a hearing or session of the full House or Senate is scheduled for a specific time, the hearing will start at that time.
- ⌚ If you're there to testify on a bill in Committee, we recommend you get there 15-30 minutes before. This allows you to go through security, find your place and find a seat. Some of the meeting rooms are smaller and if you get there later you may only have standing room only.
- ⌚ If you're there to see a bill get passed by the entire House or Senate, we really cannot guarantee a time when it will occur. There are always a lot of procedural and ceremonial things that each chamber deals with first. There is an agenda for each day, in the Senate they go in order, but in the House they do not. So we really cannot predict when a bill will be on the floor beyond knowing the time the legislature will go into session.
- ⌚ We also really can't tell you when they will be finished. Because you do not ever really know how long a debate will go on, or sometimes that a given bill will generate a lot of debate.
- ⌚ We know how valuable your time is, and if you need to leave, just let one of us know. The contract lobbyists are always there to fill a gap.

Legislative Process



How to navigate Legislative Hall

As you enter the building and face the large staircase, the "House side" is on the left and the "Senate side" is on the right.

Chambers are on the floor you enter (first floor), galleries (where the public can sit) are on the second floor.

House Offices for Democrats (majority) are on the first and second floors. House Republican offices are in the basement.

Senate Offices for Democrats (majority) are on the first and second floors; Senate Republican Offices are on the second floor.

Both the House and Senate have their own hearing room, it can be found on the respective side on the 2nd floor. The chambers can also be used for hearings. If another room is listed for the hearing, ask a lobbyist.

The basement has a cafeteria with soda and snack machines in the center of the building. The Joint Finance Hearing Room and Legislative Library are also located there.

There are elevators on both the Senate and House side of the building.

Ladies' rooms on the first and second floor are on the Senate side; Men's rooms are on the House side. In the Basement both bathrooms are on the House side.

Committee Hearing Process

Delaware legislative committees are very informal. It is not uncommon for legislators to come and go from hearings. Most hearings last ½ to 1 hour, depending on their agenda.

- ✓ The Chair of the Committee will begin the hearing, and for each bill the following order of speakers will be followed:
 - *The legislative sponsor of the bill will make a brief intro for the bill. If there are “experts” that the sponsor would like to speak they can do so at this time.*
 - *Committee members can ask the sponsor questions about the bill and engage in debate with one another.*
 - *State agencies and or the Comptroller General’s office will be allowed to make comment to the extent they have concerns about the bill or the cost of the bill.*
 - *They will then move to “Public Comment.” You will generally need to sign up for public comment when you arrive at the hearing or when you join virtually. Comment is generally limited to 2 minutes and is taken first from in-person people and then those joining virtual.*
- ✓ In the House, a Committee Vote will be taken on whether the bill is released from Committee. In the Senate a Committee Vote will generally not be taken, the bill will be circulated for signatures (privately) and if/when it receives enough signatures it will be released from Committee

MSD Testimony Process

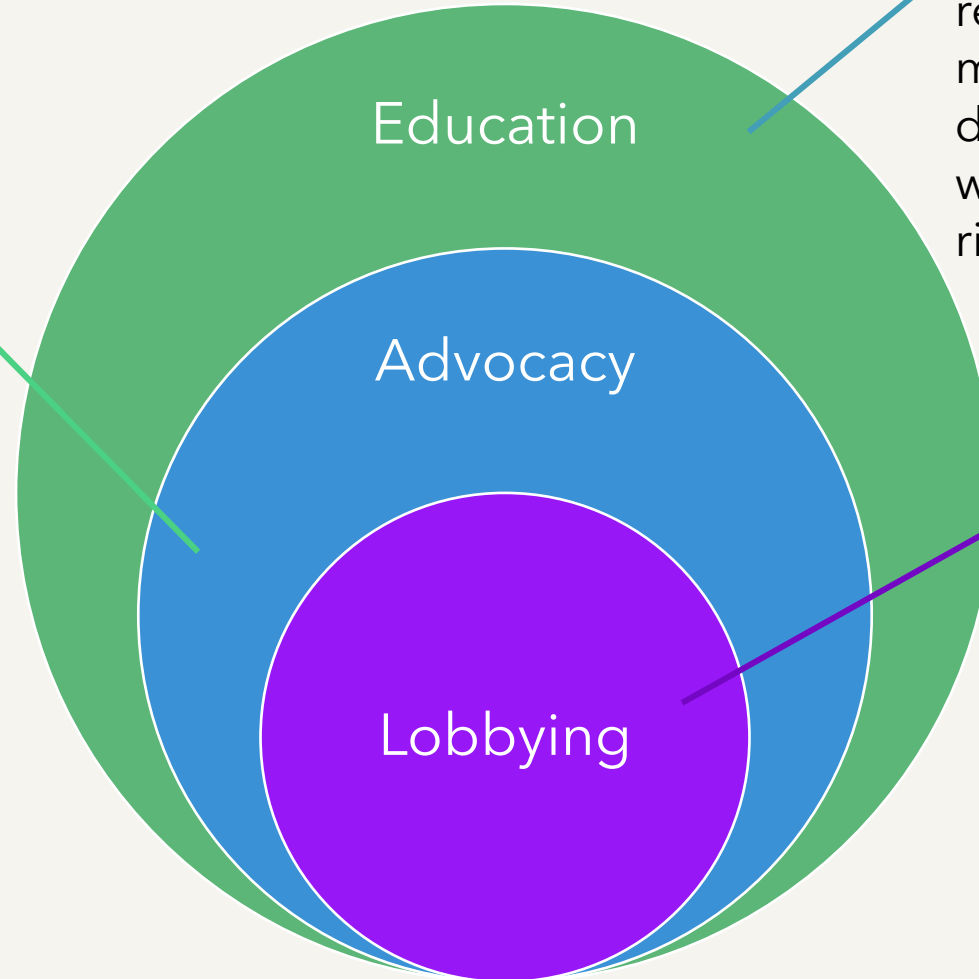
- All testimony provided on behalf of MSD (written, in person, remotely) must be approved per policy.
- If you are interested in attending sessions at Legislative Hall (listening or testifying), please contact Lisa Gruss at lisa.gruss@medsocdel.org
- In general, MSD approved testimony is:
 - Drafted by MSD Staff, Contract Lobbyists, or MSD Member Physicians based on direction of GAC/ MSD Executive Board
 - Reviewed by the MSD President, GAC Chair, and Contract Lobbyists
 - Once approved, the physician providing testimony is provided with approved testimony/ bullets
 - MSD Staff or Contract Lobbyists will also submit written testimony for the record
- MSD maintains policies on General Assembly Testimony and Speaking to the Media/ Public Comments
 - Please connect lisa.gruss@medsocdel.org for copies of these policies
 - The policies include but are not limited to MSD members, when making statements, must state clearly that they are
 - Speaking on behalf of the Society
 - Voicing their personal position
 - Speaking on behalf of a different organization

Education vs. Advocacy vs. Lobbying

This a hypothetical example, not based on actual position of the Delaware Medical Society.

(Adapted From the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies)

Increasing access to mammograms for women over 40 is likely to increase better outcomes for women. Economically disadvantaged women and women of color may see even greater benefits from access to mammograms.



Women over 40 are more likely to develop breast cancer and are recommended to receive regular mammograms. Economically disadvantaged women and women of color may be at higher risk.

Please Support HB XX that would increase access to mammograms for low-income women.

Why the difference is important...

All three occur in legislative hall every day, and there are times when a Doctor in legislative hall may be EDUCATING, ADVOCATING, or LOBBYING.

Education

- Educating a legislator may be on an issue of importance to MSD, in response to a question from a legislator on a bill that MSD has not taken a position, or in a hearing on a bill that MSD is neutral or hasn't taken a position on.

Advocacy

- Advocating should generally be on issues that MSD has a position on. Advocating is helpful when a bill has not yet been introduced or a bill already introduced could be changed to be more beneficial to either doctors or patients. Any comments made should be in-line with MSD position.

Lobbying

- Lobbying should only be on specific legislation that MSD has a position on, and comments should completely conform to whatever MSD's position on that bill is.

MSD staff positions and Contact info

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Who do I go to if I have concerns?

MSD specific:

- What is MSD's position on this piece of legislation? Mark, Lisa, one of the Lobbyists
- I want to take a position on a bill as a member of MSD, what do I do? Mark, Lisa
- Other questions about MSD's positions or leadership? Mark, Lisa
- How can I represent MSD in Leg Hall? Lisa
- How do I get on the GAC? Lisa, Mary

For the following Legislative Questions call or text a contract lobbyist. We're generally in Legislative hall on Session Days (if its urgent text):

- I'm in Legislative Hall where am I supposed to go or be?
- What time do I need to be in Legislative Hall on any given day? A legislator asked me a question or wants to talk to me...what should I do?
- What am I supposed to say in Committee?
- Bill questions (where is a bill? Did it come out of committee? What's on the agenda)