



## **New Hampshire State Senate Code of Conduct for Committee Hearings**

Legislative hearings are held so that Senators can gather information to assist them in crafting legislation, casting votes, and engaging in their other legislative duties. It falls well within the discretion of the committee chair to conduct hearings that are conducive to the furtherance of those goals and also reflect the best traditions of the Senate. Additionally, the New Hampshire State Senate believes that every person attending a committee hearing deserves respect. Whether it is an elected official or a member of the public. With those objectives in mind, the following Code of Conduct shall be observed during all hearings.

- Written testimony may be submitted online or copies given to the committee aide before your oral testimony.
- Speakers are encouraged to summarize and not read written testimony..
- It is well within the Chair's discretion to set time limits on testimony.
- Do not repeat testimony already provided by others.
- Testimony should be focused on the legislation under consideration.
- Background material directly related to the bill may be presented and should be brief.
- Comments about others should be limited to their actions relating to the bill and NOT their character.
- No signs are permitted in the hearing room.
- No shouting, clapping, booing, threatening gestures or other similar conduct is permitted.
- Standing behind committee members is not permitted.
- Side conversations should be taken out of the committee room until testimony has concluded.