**Section 338.140 Combined or Separate Hearings**

a) When a common issue is raised, the Department may respond to requests for hearings from more than one appellant by conducting a single group hearing. The Department may also combine all issues raised by a single appellant in all pending appeals arising under this or any other Department rule in a single hearing. In all group hearings, the appeal system in this Part shall apply. Individuals shall be permitted to present their own cases separately.

b) The Department, if required for the fair, efficient administration of the hearing or to prevent possible prejudice to the appellant, may sever any party or any issue from the combined hearing. The severed party or issue shall be heard separately.