Section 556 - Hearings; presiding employees; powers and duties; burden of proof; evidence; record as basis of decision.

Hearings
(a) This section applies, according to the provisions thereof, to hearings required by section 553 or 554 of this title to be conducted in accordance with this section.

Presiding employees -
(b) There shall preside at the taking of evidence —
   (1) the agency;
   (2) one or more members of the body which comprises the agency, or

Powers and duties
(c) Subject to published rules of the agency and within its powers, employees presiding at hearings may —
   (1) administer oaths and affirmations;
   (2) issue subpoenas authorized by law;

Burden of proof
(d) Except as otherwise provided by statute, the proponent of a rule or order has the burden of proof. Any oral or documentary evidence may be received, but the agency as a matter of policy shall provide for the exclusion of irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence. A sanction may not be imposed or rule or order issued except on consideration of the whole record or those parts thereof cited by a party and supported by and in accordance with the reliable, probative, and substantial evidence.