

HOW A BILL IS PASSED IN THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE

A legislator recognizes the need for a new law or changes in existing law and decides to introduce a bill.

The legislator files bill with the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate.

Following the first reading, the presiding officer assigns the bill to a standing committee.

The bill is considered by the committee. The author and other legislators may testify. If controversial, public hearings may be held.

The Clerk or Secretary prepares a General Calendar of bills that were favorably reported from committee.

The Presiding officer calls up bills from the Rules Calendar for floor consideration.

After debate, main question is called and members vote. If the bill is approved by a majority of the house, it is sent to the other house.

The bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor (if requested). Otherwise, all enrolled bills are sent to the Governor following adjournment, known as sine die.

Acts and other laws enacted during session are printed in the *Georgia Laws* series. The act is also incorporated into the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and becomes effective July 1, unless a different effective date is provided.



1

The legislator goes to the Office of Legislative Counsel where an attorney advises the legislator on legal issues and drafts bill.

2

3

On legislative day after filing, the bill is formally introduced. In Chamber, the bill's title is read during the period of first readings.

4

5

In the House chamber, on the following legislative day, the Clerk reads the title of the bill (second reading) even though the actual bill is currently in committee. In the Senate, the second reading occurs after the bill has been favorably reported by committee.

6

7

The bill is reported favorably by committee and returned to the Clerk or Secretary.

8

9

The Rules Committee of each house meets and prepares a Rules Calendar from the bills on General Calendar for floor consideration the next day.

10

11

Once the presiding officer calls bills up from the Rules Calendar, the Clerk or Secretary reads the bill's title (third reading). The bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting.

12

13

If second house passes bill, it is returned to the house where the bill was introduced. If the first house rejects the changes and second house insists, a conference committee may be appointed. If the committee report is accepted by both houses...

14

15

The Governor may sign bill or take no action, which will make the bill a law. The Governor may veto the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority in both houses to override.

