

How A Bill Is Passed In The Georgia Legislature

[https://www.gae.org/issues/GAE How Bill Becomes Law.pdf](https://www.gae.org/issues/GAE%20How%20Bill%20Becomes%20Law.pdf)



1

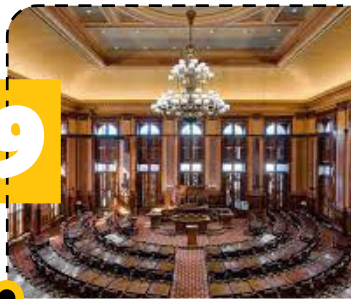
Legislator sees need for a new law or changes in existing law and decides to introduce a bill, often suggested by a constituent.



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

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Once presiding officer calls bill up from Rules Calendar, Clerk reads bill's title. Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting.

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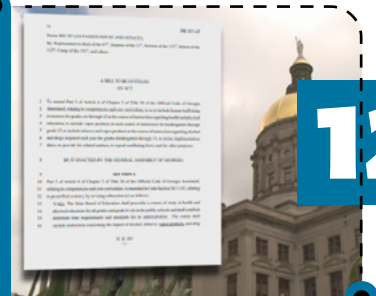
The Rules Committee has the power to determine which bills will be considered, and when, by the full chamber, and whether or not amendments can be considered.



11

The other chamber can now hold its own hearings on the bill. If second chamber passes the bill without changes, the bill is transmitted to the governor for his signature or veto.

If during committee and floor votes, the second chamber makes changes to the bill and the bill passes the second house, the legislation is returned to the chamber where the bill was first introduced. The originating chamber can accept the second chamber's changes, insist on the original version, or make new changes to the bill. If ultimately the two chambers cannot agree on matching language, a conference committee may be appointed by the leaders of each chamber to resolve differences.



12

Bills passed by both chambers are sent to the Governor.



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Legislator goes to Office of Legislative Counsel. There, an attorney advises legislator on legal issues and drafts bill.



3

Legislator files bill with the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate.



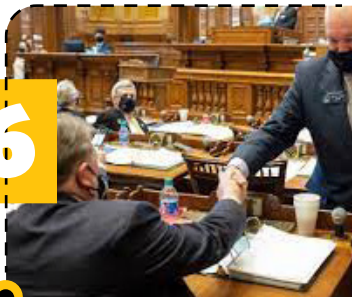
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After introduction, presiding officer assigns bill to a committee.



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Clerk or Secretary prepares a General Calendar of bills favorably reported from committee for consideration by the chamber's Rules Committee.



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Bill is reported favorably by committee and returned to Clerk or Secretary.



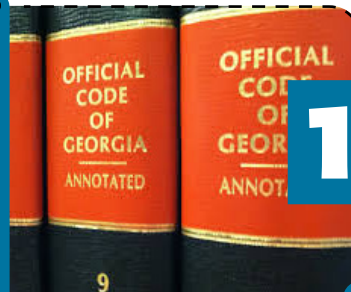
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Bill is considered by committee. Author and other legislators may testify. If controversial, public hearings may be held.



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Governor may sign bill or do nothing, and bill becomes law. Governor may veto bill, which requires two-thirds of members of each house to override.



14

Act and other laws enacted at the session are printed in the *Georgia Laws* series. Also, act is incorporated into the *Official Code of Georgia—Annotated*.

Act becomes effective following July 1, unless a different effective date is provided in the act.

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