How A Bill Is Passed In The Georgia Legislature

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Bills passed by both chambers are sent to the Governor.

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