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.

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

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

3 On legislative day after filing, bill is formally introduced. In chamber, bill's title is read during period of 1st readings.

4 Immediately after 1st reading, presiding officer assigns bill to a standing committee.

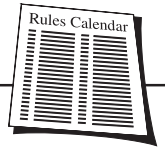
5 In the House only, on next legislative day, Clerk reads bill's title (2d reading) in chamber, although actual bill is now in committee. In Senate, 2d reading comes after bill is reported favorably from committee.

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

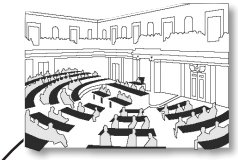
7 Bill is reported favorably by committee and returned to Clerk or Secretary.

8 Clerk or Secretary prepares a General Calendar of bills favorably reported from committee. For first 10 days of session, presiding officer calls up bills from this calendar for floor action.

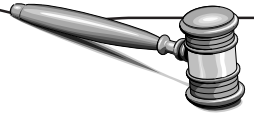
9 Starting with 10th day of session, the Rules Committee meets and from bills on General Calendar prepares a Rules Calendar for the next day's floor consideration.



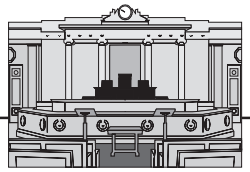
10 For the last 30 days of session, presiding officer calls up bills from the Rules Calendar for floor consideration.



11 Once presiding officer calls bill up from Rules Calendar, Clerk reads bill's title (3d reading). Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting.

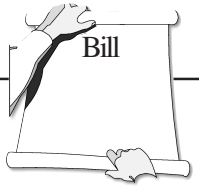


12 After debate, main question is called and members vote. if bill is approved by majority of total membership of that house , it is sent to the other house.



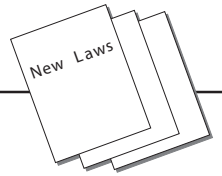
13 If second house passes bill, it is returned to house where bill was introduced. If changes are accepted, …

If first house rejects changes and second house insists, a conference committee may be appointed. If committee report is accepted by both houses, …



14 Bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor (if requested). Otherwise, all enrolled bills sent to Governor following adjournment sine die.

15 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.



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

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