

2013

GEORGIA  
ASIAN AMERICAN  
& PACIFIC ISLANDER  
LEGISLATIVE DAY



## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW IN GEORGIA

**Idea:** Can be conceived by an Individual Legislator; Study Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or Interim Committee; Citizen or Citizens' Group; Special Interest Group or Lobby

### Drafting:

- Drafted by any of above mentioned groups or individuals utilizing private legal resources
- Drafted by legislative counsel on behalf of individual legislator, legislative committee, or subcommittee
- Copied after legislation in other states

### Introduction:

- Filed with Clerk of House of Representatives
- Read for first time (by title) to entire House by Clerk (assigned to committee by Speaker)
- Read second time automatically on next legislative day

### Committee Action:

- Chairman sets date for action on bill, notifies interested parties
- Interested persons testify, for and against
- Committee votes with several options available:
  - Recommend "do pass" for bill: in original form, with committee amendment, or as substituted by committee
  - Recommend "do not pass" for bill either in original form or in amended or substituted form
  - Pass bill with no recommendation
  - Hold bill / no action

### Bill (if given "do pass" recommendation) → Returned To House

- Placed on calendar
- Called by Speaker for third reading and vote
- Bill debated on floor / Bill may be amended or substituted on floor by majority vote
- Bill passed or defeated by majority vote (2/3 vote required for tax measure or constitutional amendment resolution)

### To The Senate:

Bills that pass the House, in whatever form, are transmitted to the Senate where a similar process takes place

### Return To House:

- Senate amendments require House approval
- If House concurs with Senate amendment in its entirety, measure is passed and sent to the Governor
- If House disagrees with the Senate amendment or changes any other language, bill is assigned to a Conference Committee composed of 3 House and 3 Senate members
- Conference Committee may rewrite entire bill or resolve differences on conflicting language
- Conference Committee report read in House and Senate which accepts or rejects the report
- If accepted the bill is passed
- If either chamber rejects the conference report, the measure is assigned to new conference committee or allowed to die

### Bill Goes To Governor:

- Governor may sign the bill into law
- May veto the bill
- Bills not acted on will automatically become law (has 6 days during session, and 40 days after session)

### Veto Override:

- General Assembly may override a Governor's veto by 2/3 vote and measure becomes law.