How a Bill Is Passed in the Georgia Legislature

1. Legislator sees need for a new law or changes in existing law and decides to introduce a bill.
2. Legislator goes to Office of Legislative Counsel, there, attorney advises legislator on legal issues and drafts bill.
3. Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting.
4. Clerk reads bill's title (3d reading). Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting.
5. Once presiding officer calls up bills from the Rules Calendar, Clerk reads bill's title (3d reading). Bill is now ready for floor debate, amendments, and voting.
6. For the last 25 days of session, presiding officer calls up bills from the Rules Calendar for floor consideration.
7. Starting with 15th day of session, the Rules Committee meets and from bills on General Calendar prepares a Rules Calendar for the next day's floor consideration.
8. Clerk or Secretary prepares a General Calendar of bills favorably reported from committee. For first 15 days of session, presiding officer calls up bills from this calendar for floor action.
9. Bill considered by committee. Author and other legislators may testify. If controversial, public hearings may be held.
10. In the House only, on next legislative day, Clerk reads bill's title (3d reading) in chamber, although actual bill is now in committee.
11. 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, . . .
- 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.
- 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.
- New Law
- New Laws
- Be sure to join us for GAE Day at the Capitol Feb. 21, 2019

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