

Georgia Lawmakers

Qualifications and law-making in the General Assembly

SS8CG2.a "Explain the qualifications for members of the General Assembly and its role as the law-making body of Georgia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that states a qualification for Senate or House members. Circle each action word that shows how the General Assembly makes laws.

Who Makes Georgia Laws?

- ① Georgia's General Assembly has two chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The state constitution sets different minimum ages for their members. A person running for the Senate must be at least 25 years old. A person running for the House must be at least 21. For either chamber, the candidate must have been a Georgia citizen for at least two years and must have lived in the district for at least one year before the election. These rules connect representatives to the people and places they serve.
- ② Once elected, senators and representatives make up Georgia's law-making body. They introduce, debate, revise, and vote on bills, which are proposed laws. A bill must pass both the House and the Senate in the same form before it goes to the governor. The governor may sign the bill so it becomes a law, or veto it. If the governor vetoes a bill, the General Assembly can override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each chamber. This process requires agreement among elected officials.
- ③ The two chambers have separate members, but neither chamber can make a bill into law alone. The House and Senate check each other by reviewing the same proposed law. Their work also gives Georgians representation because members are chosen from local districts. Qualifications help ensure that each member has enough connection to Georgia and the district represented. When citizens evaluate a candidate, they can compare the candidate's age, state citizenship, and district residency with the requirements for the chamber sought. When lawmakers consider a bill, they must work through both chambers and the governor's decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 A candidate is 24 years old, has been a Georgia citizen for three years, and has lived in the district for two years. Which chamber may the candidate seek, and why?

2 What two qualifications do candidates for both chambers share?

3 Name two actions General Assembly members take when working on a bill.

4 What must happen to a bill before it goes to the governor?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence candidate-and-bill briefing. Invent a Senate candidate who qualifies, including the candidate's age, Georgia citizenship, and district residency, then explain what must happen to the candidate's bill before it can become law.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that states a qualification for Senate or House members. Circle each action word that shows how the General Assembly makes laws. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A candidate is 24 years old, has been a Georgia citizen for three years, and has lived in the district for two years. Which chamber may the candidate seek, and why?	The candidate may seek the House of Representatives because the candidate meets its age requirement of 21 and the shared citizenship and district residency requirements. The candidate is not old enough for the Senate, which requires members to be at least 25.
2	What two qualifications do candidates for both chambers share?	Candidates must have been Georgia citizens for at least two years and lived in their district for at least one year before the election.
3	Name two actions General Assembly members take when working on a bill.	Answers may include introduce, debate, revise, or vote on bills.
4	What must happen to a bill before it goes to the governor?	The bill must pass both the House and the Senate in the same form.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan is 29 years old, has been a Georgia citizen for four years, and has lived in District 12 for two years, so Jordan qualifies for the Senate. Jordan supports a bill that must pass the House and Senate in the same form. The bill then goes to the governor, who may sign it into law or veto it.

Accept any invented Senate candidate age 25 or older with at least two years of Georgia citizenship and one year of district residency. The bill explanation must include passage by both chambers in the same form and the governor's action.