

Bills Under Review

How committees help the Georgia General Assembly handle proposed laws.

SS8CG2.b "Describe the purpose of the committee system within the Georgia General Assembly."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how committees help the General Assembly do its work.
Circle one detail that shows what happens after a committee reviews a bill.

Why Committees Matter

- ① Georgia legislators introduce many bills during each session. If every House and Senate member studied every bill in equal detail, the General Assembly could not use its time well. The committee system divides this work among smaller groups of legislators. A bill is referred to a committee whose members focus on a subject area, such as education, transportation, or agriculture. Committee members read the proposal, discuss its effects, and decide whether it needs more study before the full chamber considers it.
- ② Committees make it possible for legislators to examine bills more carefully than the entire House or Senate could at once. They may hold a hearing, where supporters, opponents, and people with knowledge of the issue can speak. Members can ask questions and suggest changes. This process helps a committee identify concerns, improve a proposal, or decide that it should not move forward. By concentrating on particular subjects, committees build experience that helps them evaluate complicated ideas.
- ③ After its review, a committee can report a bill to the full House or Senate for further action. The full chamber then has the chance to debate and vote on bills that have received committee attention. Committee review does not guarantee that a bill will become law, and a committee's recommendation is not the final decision. Instead, the system organizes a large workload, gives proposals closer examination, and helps the General Assembly use debate time on bills ready for wider consideration.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why does the General Assembly send bills to smaller committees instead of having every legislator study every bill at once?

2 Identify two actions committee members may take while examining a bill.

3 How can a committee hearing help members evaluate a proposed bill?

4 What is the difference between a committee's recommendation and the final decision on a bill?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A proposed bill would change school bus safety rules. Write 3 sentences explaining which type of committee could review it, two actions the committee could take, and how its review would help the full chamber.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how committees help the General Assembly do its work. Circle one detail that shows what happens after a committee reviews a bill. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the General Assembly send bills to smaller committees instead of having every legislator study every bill at once?	Committees divide the large workload, allowing bills to receive closer study and helping the General Assembly use its time well.
2	Identify two actions committee members may take while examining a bill.	They may hold a hearing, ask questions, suggest changes, read the proposal, discuss its effects, or decide it needs more study.
3	How can a committee hearing help members evaluate a proposed bill?	A hearing allows supporters, opponents, and knowledgeable people to speak, so members can gather viewpoints and information about the issue.
4	What is the difference between a committee's recommendation and the final decision on a bill?	A committee can report a bill for further action, but the full House or Senate debates and votes. The committee recommendation is not the final decision.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bill about school bus safety could go to a transportation committee. Its members could hold a hearing with drivers and safety experts, ask questions, and suggest changes. Their review would let the full chamber spend debate time on a bill that has been examined closely.

Accept any appropriate subject-area committee, such as transportation, and any two review actions stated or reasonably inferred from the passage. The response should explain that committee review provides detailed study, information, or a more efficient use of the full chamber's time.