

From Bill to Law

Trace how a Georgia bill moves through state government.

SS8CG2.c "Explain the process for making a law in Georgia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the six sentences that begin with a bold Stage label. Number them 1 through 6 in the margin to trace the required path from bill to law.

A Bill's Path in Georgia

- ① Georgia lawmakers may respond to a concern, such as safer streets near schools, by proposing a bill. A bill is a written idea for a possible law, not a law yet. **Stage 1:** A senator or representative introduces the bill in that legislator's chamber, and it receives its first reading. **Stage 2:** The chamber's presiding officer sends the bill to a committee, where members study it, may hear public testimony, and decide whether to recommend it to the full chamber.
- ② If the committee recommends the bill, the original chamber continues its work. **Stage 3:** The bill completes the required readings and is debated, then the original chamber may pass it only with affirmative votes from a majority of the members to which that chamber is entitled. **Stage 4:** The bill then goes to the other chamber, where a committee review, required readings, debate, and a vote occur. That chamber also needs affirmative votes from a majority of the members to which it is entitled.
- ③ Both chambers must approve the same wording before a bill can be sent to the governor. **Stage 5:** If the chambers pass different versions, they work out one identical version, and each chamber must approve that version. **Stage 6:** The governor may sign the bill or veto it. If it is not vetoed within six days, excluding Sundays, it becomes law, unless adjournment prevents its return. In that case, the governor has forty days after adjournment. The General Assembly can override a veto only with affirmative votes from two-thirds of the members to which each chamber is entitled.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do Stages 1 and 2 move an idea from a legislator to a committee?

2 What vote is required for the original chamber to pass a bill in Stage 3?

3 Why must the House and Senate approve the same wording? What happens if they pass different versions?

4 If the governor vetoes a bill, what vote is needed to override the veto?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a bill about a school or community issue. Write six numbered sentences that trace the bill through Stages 1 through 6, including the required vote rule in both chambers and one possible governor outcome.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the six sentences that begin with a bold Stage label. Number them 1 through 6 in the margin to trace the required path from bill to law. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Stages 1 and 2 move an idea from a legislator to a committee?	A senator or representative introduces the bill and it receives its first reading. The presiding officer then sends it to a committee for study and a recommendation.
2	What vote is required for the original chamber to pass a bill in Stage 3?	The bill needs affirmative votes from a majority of the members to which that chamber is entitled.
3	Why must the House and Senate approve the same wording? What happens if they pass different versions?	Both chambers must approve identical wording before the bill goes to the governor. If they pass different versions, they work out one identical version and both chambers must approve it.
4	If the governor vetoes a bill, what vote is needed to override the veto?	Two-thirds of the members to which each chamber is entitled must vote affirmatively to override the veto.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. A representative introduces a bill to add water refill stations in state parks, and the bill receives its first reading in the House. 2. The House presiding officer sends the bill to a committee, which studies it and recommends it. 3. The House completes the required readings and passes it with affirmative votes from a majority of members entitled to serve. 4. The Senate committee reviews the bill, and the Senate passes it after its readings with an affirmative majority of members entitled to serve. 5. The House and Senate approve the same final wording. 6. The governor signs the bill, and it becomes law.

Accept answers that accurately trace the six labeled stages and use the required affirmative-vote thresholds. For the open task, accept any realistic bill topic and any accurate governor outcome, including signing, vetoing, or allowing the bill to become law without a veto.