

Laws and Balance

Analyze how Georgia legislators make laws, fund services, and share power.

SS8CG2 "Analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions the General Assembly takes, circle words that show how a bill is checked, and number the steps a bill takes from proposal to the governor. Your marks will help you analyze the legislative branch's role.

Georgia's Lawmakers at Work

- ① Georgia's legislative branch is the General Assembly. It has two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Voters elect members of both chambers to two-year terms. Each year, legislators meet in regular session at the State Capitol in Atlanta. They listen to concerns from constituents, propose laws, debate public issues, and decide which ideas deserve action. Having two chambers means a proposal must be considered by two groups of elected representatives before it can become state law.
- ② A legislator begins the lawmaking process by introducing a bill, a written proposal. A committee studies the bill, hears testimony, and may recommend changes. If the full chamber approves it, the bill goes to the other chamber for its own committee review and vote. Both chambers must pass the same version. This process lets legislators examine possible effects, revise details, and reject proposals they believe would not serve Georgia before they reach the governor for action.
- ③ The General Assembly also controls important state spending. Legislators pass a budget that directs money to services such as public schools, transportation, and public safety. The governor may sign a bill, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature. If the governor vetoes a bill, the House and Senate can override the veto only when two-thirds of the members in each chamber vote to do so. These steps share power and limit any one branch.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are the two chambers of the Georgia General Assembly, and what must both chambers do before a bill can move toward becoming law?

2 How do committee review and votes in both chambers affect a proposed law? Use two actions from the passage in your answer.

3 What financial responsibility does the General Assembly have? Name two services that the budget can support.

4 How can the General Assembly check the governor's power to veto a bill?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A community asks Georgia to improve safety at school bus stops. Write four sentences explaining how the General Assembly could respond. Include a bill, committee or chamber action, state funding, and the governor's role.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions the General Assembly takes, circle words that show how a bill is checked, and number the steps a bill takes from proposal to the governor. Your marks will help you analyze the legislative branch's role. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are the two chambers of the Georgia General Assembly, and what must both chambers do before a bill can move toward becoming law?	The two chambers are the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both must pass the same version of the bill.
2	How do committee review and votes in both chambers affect a proposed law? Use two actions from the passage in your answer.	Committees study bills, hear testimony, and may recommend changes. Both chambers review and vote on the bill, which allows legislators to revise or reject proposals.
3	What financial responsibility does the General Assembly have? Name two services that the budget can support.	The General Assembly passes the state budget and directs state spending. It can support public schools, transportation, and public safety.
4	How can the General Assembly check the governor's power to veto a bill?	The House and Senate can override a veto if two-thirds of the members in each chamber vote to do so.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To address bus-stop safety, a legislator could introduce a bill that funds better lighting and safer crossing areas. A committee could hear from families and transportation experts, then recommend changes before each chamber votes on the same version. The General Assembly would include money for the project in the state budget. If the governor vetoed the bill, both chambers would need two-thirds votes to override the veto.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the House and Senate, the bill process, budget authority, and the veto override. For the open response, look for an accurate application of all four requested legislative and executive roles.