HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW
TRACKING A BILL THROUGH THE SENATE

1. A need for a new law or change in existing law is recognized by legislator, or suggested by Governor, public agency, a constituent, or others.

2. Legislator(s) decides to sponsor a bill to address issues and concerns.

3. Legislative Counsel researches law on subject and helps draft bill.

4. Senator files bill with Secretary of Senate who assigns a number and prints.

5. Bill introduced next day and read 1st time (by title only).

6. Senate Committee meets to consider and study bill and hear from interested parties. Public hearing may be called.

7. Committee recommends that bill "Do pass", "Do not pass", or "Do pass with changes".

8. In Senate, bill read 2nd time on legislative day following committee report.

9. During first 5 days of Session, bill is ready for 3rd reading and Senate Calendar.

10. During last 35 days of Session, bill is sent to Rules Committee, which sets the daily Rules Calendar from a General Calendar of all bills available for 3rd reading.

11. Third and last reading of bill - sponsor explains bill, floor debate, and actions on amendments and substitutes;

12. Bill signed by the Secretary and transmitted to House of Representatives.

13. In House, bill undergoes a similar procedure.

14. The House can pass bill with no changes… Or House can pass bill with changes. Senate must agree to changes or a conference committee is appointed. The report must be accepted by both houses for passage.

15. Upon final passage, bill sent to Governor for his approval or disapproval.

16. Effective date of Act (Law) is July 1st, unless Act specifically provides a different effective date.

17. Governor signs or vetoes within time limit; assigns Act number to bill. (Governor may veto bill; General Assembly may override the veto by 2/3s vote of each house at the next session.)

18. And final vote taken by roll call.

19. Bill is assigned an Act or veto number and sent to Secretary of State for archiving.

Source: Office of Secretary of the Senate 353 State Capitol www.senate.ga.gov