The Legislative Branch of GA

First, let’s Review on executive branch

Legislative Branch

* law-making body in Georgia
* officially known as [Georgia General Assembly](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/)
* bicameral (two-houses): [House of Representatives](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm) and [Senate](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/senate/index.htm)
* only House can write spending bills; Senate confirms appointments made by the governor

Members of the general assembly

* **180 members**
* [**elected by popular vote**](http://www.congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?state=GA)
* **no limit on number of consecutive terms**

**members’ districts have about the same number of voters**

* **Qualifications**
  + **citizen of US and Georgia at least 2 years**
  + **legal resident of district at least 1 year**
  + **Senators: at least 25 years old**
  + **Representatives: at least 21 years old**

Legislative sessions

* 40-day session, January – March
* members of house of representatives elect Speaker of the House
* lieutenant governor presides over senate but has no vote
* Speaker can vote if there is a tie

Committees

* Bills are assigned to a committee based on its content. The committee may do the following:

-Pass

-Do not pass

-Pass with amendments

-Pass with substitution

-Do nothing and let the bill expire

* ***Types of Committees in the General Assembly***

-standing committees

-interim committee: works on assigned special tasks

-conference committee: works out agreements between House and Senate on bills

-joint committee: has members of House and Senate to work on assigned topic or issue

Types of legislation

* **can pass laws, amend (change) them, or do away with them**
* **some law topics:**

**-taxes**

**-education**

**-property**

**-criminal matters and punishments**

**-public health**

**-regulation of businesses & professions**

How a bill becomes a law

* **any senator or representative can propose a bill**