



About Georgia's Legislature

Georgia General Assembly

The legislature is called the Georgia Assembly and is made up of two bodies: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Legislative Sessions

In Georgia, the legislature convenes each year at the State Capitol located in Atlanta beginning the second Monday in January, and runs for 40 days. (Odd numbered years are the first session and even numbered years are the second session). Each session usually ends around the third week of March.

Elected Members

The Georgia General Assembly is made up of two bodies, the Senate (56 members) and the House of Representatives (180 members). Members of the House and Senate are elected in November of each even-numbered year for a two-year term.

Leadership

The leader and presiding officer in the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House, or in case of absence, the Speaker Pro Tempore. In the Senate, the President (Lieutenant Governor) is the presiding officer, or in case of absence, the President Pro Tempore.

Committees

The committees for both houses are appointed by the presiding officer. Each body normally convenes between 9 and 10 a.m. Committees meet before and after the daily sessions. Most legislation concerning the medical community is assigned to the following committees:

House of Representatives

Appropriations
Insurance
Health & Human Services
Judiciary
Special Judiciary

Senate

Appropriations
Insurance & Labor
Health & Human Services
Judiciary
Judiciary Non-Civil

Voting Procedure

Both bodies use electronic voting machines (green=yes, red=no, and white=present). Total votes are recorded at the bottom of the recording panel. Bells sound in the halls to let legislators know they have 60 seconds to record their vote. You can obtain a copy of any recorded vote at the office of the Clerk or Secretary of Senate.