

House Bill 713

By: Representatives Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Schofield of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, and Jackson of the 68<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 general provisions regarding the General Assembly, so as to provide that no rule or policy  
3 shall be enacted that limits the number of bills or resolutions which a member may file or  
4 introduce in a legislative session; to provide that no rule, policy, or procedure shall be  
5 enacted by the General Assembly that limits or obstructs the ability of members of the  
6 General Assembly to fulfill their duties under the Georgia Constitution; to provide for  
7 physical, recorded votes on certain matters; to provide for a Legislative Constitutional  
8 Counsel; to provide for appointment, qualifications, compensation, and duties; to provide a  
9 short title; to provide for an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
10 laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Legislative Integrity and  
14 Representation Act of 2025."

H. B. 713

**SECTION 2.**

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Chapter 1 of Title 28 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding the General Assembly, is amended by adding new Code sections to read as follows:

"28-1-17.

(a) No rule, statute, or executive action shall limit the right of members of the General Assembly to introduce, file, or advocate for legislation that represents the interests of their constituents.

(b) Any attempt to place a limit on the number of bills or resolutions which a member of the General Assembly may file shall be deemed an unconstitutional restriction on the legislative process which infringes on the right of elected officials to serve the people without arbitrary limitations.

(c) The General Assembly is the direct voice of the people, and no rule, statute, or executive action shall diminish the duty of a member of the General Assembly to introduce policies that address the needs and concerns of his or her constituents.

(d) This Code section reaffirms the constitutional principle of representative democracy and that elected members of the General Assembly are sent to the General Assembly to serve the best interests of their districts without restriction or interference that would suppress the will of the voters.

(e) Therefore, the rights of members of the General Assembly to freely propose, debate, and pass legislation are critical to ensuring a limited, accountable government that functions on behalf of its citizens and not bureaucratic control.

(f) Any attempt to suppress a member of the General Assembly's ability to file and introduce legislation shall be subject to judicial review under both state and federal constitutional protections, and members of the General Assembly shall have standing to challenge any such attempt in court, with legal representation to be provided by the Legislative Constitutional Counsel's Office.

42 (g) Any procedural attempt by the General Assembly to override this Code section without  
43 a recorded vote shall be deemed null and void.

44 28-1-18.

45 (a) To ensure transparency and accountability in the General Assembly, the election of the  
46 following positions shall require a physical, recorded vote of the house of the General  
47 Assembly to which it is applicable:

48 (1) Speaker of the House of Representatives;

49 (2) Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives; and

50 (3) President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

51 (b) In addition, the adoption or amendment of the rules for a house of the General  
52 Assembly shall require open debate and a physical, recorded vote and, to be effective, must  
53 receive approval by at least a two-thirds' majority vote of the body. The vote shall be  
54 conducted publicly, and individual votes shall be entered into the legislative journal to  
55 ensure accountability to constituents. Any rule or policy that eliminates or restricts such  
56 recorded vote on such items shall be void and unenforceable.

57 28-1-19.

58 (a) There is established the position of Legislative Constitutional Counsel. The Legislative  
59 Constitutional Counsel shall be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia.  
60 The Legislative Constitutional Counsel shall provide independent legal support to all  
61 members of the General Assembly and shall advise and defend members of the General  
62 Assembly in matters concerning constitutional rights, legislative procedures, and potential  
63 legal violations which would affect the ability of such members to represent their  
64 constituents.

65 (b) The Legislative Constitutional Counsel shall not be subject to oversight or control by  
66 the executive branch of government or any partisan leadership positions of the General  
67 Assembly but shall instead be accountable only to the General Assembly as a whole.

68 (c) The Legislative Constitutional Counsel shall be appointed by a two-thirds' majority  
69 vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate and shall not be removed without due  
70 cause and a two-thirds' majority vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

71 (d) The Legislative Constitutional Counsel shall have such compensation and benefits as  
72 may be provided by the General Assembly and shall have such staff and office space as  
73 may be provided by the General Assembly."

74 **SECTION 3.**

75 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
76 without such approval.

77 **SECTION 4.**

78 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.