

## Steps for Amending the Georgia Constitution

SR 52 is a resolution to amend the Georgia Constitution. To create a citizens' redistricting commission, Article II (Section IV) of the Constitution must be amended. A commission cannot be created by a simple bill; it can only result from a change in the Constitution. Article X of the Georgia Constitution gives the requirements for changing the Georgia Constitution either by amending it or by replacing it with a whole new constitution.

Steps Required Pass and Implement SR 52 and HR XX	
Step	<i>Senate Resolution 52 The Democracy Act</i>
Step #1. An amendment can be proposed starting in either chamber of the assembly, i.e., the House of Representatives or the Senate.	<i>SR 52 is a resolution of the Georgia Senate. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Redistricting and Reapportionment. HR XX is a resolution of the Georgia House. It has been referred to the House Committee on Congressional and Legislative Reapportionment. SR 52 and HR XX have exactly the same language.</i>
Step #2. A hearing and a vote by the Senate and House reapportionment committees.	<i>To be voted on by the whole Senate, SR 52 must have a hearing and a vote by the relevant committee. The same procedure must be followed in the House: SR XX must have a hearing and a vote by the House committee before being considered by the whole House.</i>
Step #3. After a resolution has been approved by the relevant committee, it goes to the whole Senate or House for a vote. To pass, a resolution must receive 2/3's approval (rather than the majority required for a bill).	<i>At Step #3, the Democracy Act is voted on by the House and the Senate. If approved by 2/3s in both House and Senate, the resolution moves to the ballot to be voted on by the citizens of Georgia.</i>
Step #4. <i>Article X establishes a "Georgia Constitutional Amendments Publication Board," which is charged with ensuring that the state's voters have adequate notification that an election is to occur on a proposed amendment(s).</i>	<i>At Step #4, the processes begin to place the Democracy Act on the ballot for the next general election in an even-numbered year. The approved resolution does NOT go to the Governor for signature; a resolution must go to the people for a vote. Before the general election, information about the resolutions is widely distributed across the state by this official board but also by groups that support or oppose the resolution.</i>
Step #5. The amendment is approved or rejected by the voters.	<i>After approval by the Georgia General Assembly, the Democracy Act must be voted on during a general election in an even-numbered year. [NOTE: The General Assembly can vote on the resolutions in any session but the public voting can only occur during even-numbered years.]</i>
Step #6. The resolution becomes an amendment to the Georgia Constitution after approval by a majority of the Georgia voters in a general election.	<i>With the approval by the voters, the Georgia Constitution changes to include the Democracy Act. The new system is implemented for redistricting the Congressional, state House, and state Senate districts in Georgia. The Constitution requires that an amendment takes effect on January 1 of the year following ratification (see Article X, Section I, Paragraph VI of the Constitution).</i>