

Virginia's Branches of Government

When Virginia declared its independence in 1776, it was breaking away from its old form of government. The next step for Virginia was to create a plan for its own government. A plan for a government was in a document called a **constitution**. Virginia created a state government made up of three parts, or branches, that ensure Virginia laws agree with the state constitution.

The General Assembly is the **legislative branch** of the Virginia government that makes the state laws. It is divided into two parts- the Senate and the House of Delegates.

The governor heads the **executive branch** of the state government. The executive branch makes sure that state laws are carried out.

The **judicial branch** is the state's court system. The judicial branch decides cases about people accused of breaking the law and whether or not a law agrees with Virginia's constitution.