

House Resolution 1558

By: Representatives Setzler of the 35th, Hill of the 21st, Loudermilk of the 14th, Lindsey of the 54th, May of the 111th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Biological Privacy; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, emerging technology is rapidly advancing the capacity of governments and
3 private organizations to physically monitor and biologically profile law abiding citizens; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the use of these technologies is being increasingly integrated into ordinary life
5 both in the private and public sectors for purposes of personnel identification, access control,
6 medical assessment, profiling, and for other purposes; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the uses of technologies such as DNA profiling, digital fingerprint recognition,
8 and retinal scan utilize indelible physical characteristics that are unalterable; and
- 9 WHEREAS, radio frequency identification, global positioning systems, and emerging
10 nanotechnology have the potential to provide public and private entities significant
11 information regarding the whereabouts and behavioral history of citizens without their
12 knowledge or consent; and
- 13 WHEREAS, no information that is collected and centrally maintained can be kept completely
14 safe from theft or misuse by unauthorized parties; and
- 15 WHEREAS, theft of indelible biological information could be devastating to a citizen's
16 personal or financial future; and
- 17 WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Georgia provide
18 "[t]he right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects . . . shall
19 not be violated . . ."; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the government has a duty to address through its laws the basic protection and
21 welfare of its citizens.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 there is created the House Study Committee on Biological Privacy. The committee shall
3 consist of five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
4 Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as the chairperson. The chairperson shall
5 call all meetings of the committee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
7 needs, issues, and uses of biological information and technology by government and private
8 entities and the problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions or
9 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall seek
10 the advice and opinions of private, institutional, and law enforcement experts and officials.
11 The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
12 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully its powers, perform its duties, and
13 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
14 shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative
15 committees but shall not receive the same for more than five days unless additional days are
16 authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
17 from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee
18 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
19 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The
20 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.