

## Senate Resolution 130

By: Senators Hufstetler of the 52nd, Unterman of the 45th, Beach of the 21st, Thompson of the 14th and Albers of the 56th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Transparency and Open Access in Government Study Committee; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, state agencies possess great amounts of valuable information and reports on all  
4 aspects of life for the citizens of this state, including, without limitation, health, business,  
5 public safety, labor, and transportation data; and

6 WHEREAS, the tremendous amount of data maintained by state agencies can result in the  
7 duplication of efforts, data, records, and parts of data and records that may result in the  
8 maintenance of inconsistent data and records concerning the same citizen; and

9 WHEREAS, the lack of a quick and efficient delivery system to respond to legislative and  
10 executive branch inquiries is harmful to the policy-making process and ultimately costs  
11 taxpayers money; and

12 WHEREAS, progressive states have evolved to become data-driven governments that use  
13 data as a strategic asset to improve the delivery of services to the state's citizens and to  
14 become more efficient stewards of citizens' data; and

15 WHEREAS, ensuring the quality and consistency of public data is essential to maintaining  
16 the data's value and utility; and

17 WHEREAS, new information technology has fundamentally changed the way people search  
18 for and expect to find information and can aggregate large quantities of data to allow the state  
19 to provide better information to citizens with increasing efficiency and thoroughness; and

20 WHEREAS, the state should evaluate ways to appropriately, efficiently, and securely share  
21 data between and within state agencies to allow for quicker, more impactful cross-agency  
22 analysis to allow policymakers to make quicker, more informed decisions; and

23 WHEREAS, the state should use the innovations in information technology to enhance  
24 public access to public data to make the state more transparent and to promote public trust  
25 while eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in the execution and delivery of government  
26 services.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
28 GEORGIA:

29 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Transparency and  
30 Open Access in Government Study Committee.

31 (2) **Members and officers.**

32 (A) The committee shall be composed of six members.

33 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate as members  
34 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.

35 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the  
36 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
37 members as cochairperson.

38 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,  
39 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or  
40 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall  
41 determine the best practices for the state to achieve the most efficient system for  
42 maintaining and delivering the state's public records and data to public officials,  
43 government entities, and private citizens; recommend specific solutions and legislation  
44 for an efficient open data and transparency law based upon open data policy principles  
45 for state agencies to maintain and share public data that is owned, controlled, collected,  
46 or maintained by state agencies; and examine, solicit, and procure public and private  
47 institution grants to assist in the performance of its duties.

48 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The  
49 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem  
50 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform  
51 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

52 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

53 The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in  
54 Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances  
55 authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for  
56 more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out  
57 the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the Senate and the  
58 House of Representatives.

59 (6) **Report.**

60 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that  
61 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the  
62 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to  
63 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

64 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for  
65 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to  
66 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

67 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
68 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
69 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed  
70 with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the  
72 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives copies of the  
73 minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

74 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.