

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

ADOPTED SENATE

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, to become
14 more efficient stewards of citizens' data, and to reduce unnecessary costs; and

15 WHEREAS, ensuring the quality and consistency of public data is essential to maintaining
16 the data's value and utility and achieving high value solutions to improve the lives and health
17 of our citizens; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (A) The committee shall be composed of 14 members.

34 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members
35 of the committee and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson. In
36 addition, the President of the Senate shall appoint three persons from private industry
37 as follows:

38 (i) One member with expertise in health information technology;

39 (ii) One member with expertise in data security or a related technology field; and

40 (iii) One member from a stakeholder's group with expertise in the delivery of
41 healthcare or other service provider utilizing public data in Georgia.

42 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
43 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one of such
44 members as cochairperson. In addition, the Speaker shall appoint three persons from
45 private industry as follows:

46 (i) One member with expertise in health information technology;

47 (ii) One member with expertise in data security or a related technology field; and

48 (iii) One member from a stakeholder's group with expertise in the delivery of
49 healthcare or other service provider utilizing public data in Georgia.

50 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
51 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
52 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
53 determine the best practices for the state to achieve the most efficient system for
54 maintaining and delivering the state's public records and data to public officials,
55 government entities, and private citizens, including appropriate bidirectional access

56 between public and private industries; recommend specific solutions and legislation for
57 an efficient open data and transparency law based upon open data policy principles for
58 state agencies to maintain and share public data that is owned, controlled, collected, or
59 maintained by state agencies; examine, solicit, and procure public and private institution
60 grants and partnerships to assist in the performance of its duties. Such partnerships shall
61 include, but are not limited to, opportunities from which the state can expect a clear
62 return on investment from health information technology and other data-driven
63 interventions that will improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

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

68 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

69 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
70 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

71 (B) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state
72 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
73 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
74 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
75 employees.

76 (C) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
77 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
78 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
79 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

80 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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