

## 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**

## 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 15 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 (D) The Governor shall appoint an additional member of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

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