

House Resolution 1161

By: Representatives Wallace of the 119th, Dreyer of the 59th, Park of the 101st, Gonzalez of the 117th, Nguyen of the 89th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging Georgia's state agencies to establish policies requiring recipients of state
2 contracts to adhere to Internet neutrality principles; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the free and open exchange of information, secured by a free and open Internet,
4 has never been more essential to modern social, commercial, and civic life; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgians expect and rely on the traditional principle that Internet service
6 providers will not pick and choose what content they can see and instead will be "neutral"
7 and abide by principles commonly referred to as "Internet neutrality" or "net neutrality"; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's citizens rely on a free and open Internet to learn, to entertain, to make
9 informed personal choices about their families, and to make public choices about our society;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, businesses in Georgia rely on a free and open Internet to enter new markets, to
12 gain new insights, to recruit, to compete, and to expand; and

13 WHEREAS, educational institutions in Georgia rely on a free and open Internet to provide
14 Georgians with world-class educational opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, it is integral to the success of rural communities in Georgia to have a free and
16 open Internet without filtered content and without disparity in access based on wealth; and

17 WHEREAS, as federal regulators recently illustrated, a free and open Internet is not
18 guaranteed but is susceptible to corporate and political degradation, and its protection
19 requires constant vigilance by consumers, market participants, and governments alike; and

20 WHEREAS, the loss of Internet neutrality principles threatens to increase the costs of
21 accessing and sharing information for people and for businesses alike; and

22 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission has argued that violations of Internet
23 neutrality principles may violate state competition and fair trade practices laws, which
24 requires the vigilance and attention of state governments; and

25 WHEREAS, many Internet service providers, including significant broadband and mobile
26 service providers in Georgia, have made public pledges to adhere to certain Internet
27 neutrality principles in the wake of changes by federal regulators; and

28 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is a significant purchaser of Internet services; and

29 WHEREAS, the uniform application of Internet neutrality principles in Georgia is closely
30 related to the delivery of predictable, stable, high-quality Internet service for the state; and

31 WHEREAS, paid prioritization and throttling could fundamentally impact state employees'
32 ability to conduct business, could limit the ability of the citizens of Georgia to receive
33 government services, and dramatically deepen the "digital divide" as well as exacerbate
34 challenges our poorest citizens have in accessing government services; and

35 WHEREAS, this state and its agencies should establish criteria requiring that any successful
36 recipients of state contracts adhere to Internet neutrality principles and that specifically to
37 receive a contract from the State of Georgia for the provision of telecommunications
38 services, a service provider must publicly disclose to all of its customers in the State of
39 Georgia accurate information regarding the network and transport management practices,
40 performance, and commercial terms of its broadband Internet access services sufficient for
41 consumers to make informed choices regarding the use of such services; and

42 WHEREAS, this state and its agencies should require that a service provider that contracts
43 with the state for the provision of telecommunications services shall not, with respect to any
44 consumer in this state, block lawful content, applications, services, or devices; throttle,
45 impair, or degrade lawful Internet traffic on the basis of content, application, or service;
46 engage in paid prioritization; or unreasonably interfere with or unreasonably disadvantage
47 end users' ability to select, access, and use broadband Internet access services or the lawful
48 content, applications, services, or devices of their choice.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body encourage Georgia's state agencies to establish policies requiring
51 recipients of state contracts to adhere to Internet neutrality principles.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
53 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
54 public and the press.