

Senate Resolution 929

By: Senator Thompson of the 14th

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Cyber Security Legislation; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the cyber security environment is constantly changing with new innovations and  
3 technologies causing policies and governance to reach obsolescence at a rapid pace; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia's growing economy is increasingly reliant on crucial technology  
5 systems which are vital to the health IT and fintech sectors; and
- 6 WHEREAS, over 60 percent of fintech industry companies in the United States exist within  
7 Georgia and generate annual revenues above \$70 billion; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the threat of cyber attacks continues to grow as more data are moved to online  
9 and cloud storage databases; and
- 10 WHEREAS, cyber attacks are distinctly varied in their goals, methods, and scope, causing  
11 difficulties in uniform security protocols to monitor and combat possible cyber  
12 vulnerabilities; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Georgia's current cyber security policies have not been continually updated to  
14 combat the growing threat of data breaches and other malicious cyber activities; and
- 15 WHEREAS, many other states have taken the initiative to proactively legislate on this issue  
16 through a variety of policies and practices that integrate cyber considerations into regulatory  
17 authority across the state; and
- 18 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to undertake a study of how Georgia's cyber laws  
19 compare to other states' current and planned cyber laws and whether any changes need to be  
20 made to current state law in this area.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

22 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on  
23 Cyber Security Legislation.

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

25 (A) The committee shall be composed of ten members.

26 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members  
27 of the committee, which shall include the chairperson of the Senate Science and  
28 Technology Committee, and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.  
29 In addition, the President of the Senate shall appoint a citizen member of the committee  
30 who is knowledgeable in the area of cyber security and cyber security policy.

31 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the  
32 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the House Committee on  
33 Science and Technology, as members of the committee and shall designate one of such  
34 members as cochairperson. In addition, the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
35 shall appoint a citizen member of the committee who is knowledgeable in the area of  
36 cyber security and cyber security policy.

37 (3) **Powers and duties.**

38 (A) The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and  
39 problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or legislation  
40 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

41 (B) At the request of the cochairpersons, state agencies with knowledge and expertise  
42 of the issues relevant to the committee, including, but not limited to, the Department  
43 of Administrative Services, the Georgia Technology Authority, and the State Law  
44 Department, shall work with and attend committee meetings at the request of the  
45 cochairpersons.

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

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

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

53 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,  
54 or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the committee,  
55 but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their  
56 duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they are reimbursed for  
57 expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

58 (C) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state officials, or state  
59 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that  
60 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
61 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state  
62 employees.

63 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received  
64 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are  
65 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come  
66 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that  
67 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative  
68 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise  
69 available to their respective agencies.

70 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

85 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.