

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.