

House Resolution 1093

By: Representatives Parsons of the 44th, Werkheiser of the 157th, Hitchens of the 161st, Nix of the 69th, and Dickey of the 140th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Cybersecurity; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the increasing dependence on technology to power critical infrastructure
3 exposes vulnerabilities in technology; and
- 4 WHEREAS, cyber crime is a constantly evolving threat to businesses, governments, and
5 consumers, with criminals using fast-evolving and increasingly sophisticated methods to
6 attack critical information; and
- 7 WHEREAS, cybersecurity threats are increasing in both frequency and their level of
8 sophistication by disrupting computer information networks, gaining unauthorized access to
9 systems, and accessing personal data, presenting one of the most significant challenges
10 facing citizens today; and
- 11 WHEREAS, there has been a 365 percent increase of attacks on municipalities in the past
12 12 months; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the total average cost for a public sector breach is estimated at \$2.3 million; and
- 14 WHEREAS, a study is needed to better understand whether the General Assembly should
15 consider additional security requirements for privacy protection and increased investments
16 in better internet of things related security measures.
- 17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 GEORGIA:
- 19 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
20 Cybersecurity.
- 21 (2) **Members and officers.**
- 22 (A) The committee shall be composed of 12 members.

23 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members of the
 24 House of Representatives and shall designate one of such members as cochairperson.
 25 The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also appoint an additional two
 26 citizens to serve as members of the committee, one of which shall be an internet of
 27 things expert, and one of which shall be a current or retired professor of internet
 28 technology at an accredited educational institution of higher learning.

29 (C) The President of the Senate shall appoint three members of the Senate and shall
 30 designate one of such members as cochairperson. The President of the Senate shall also
 31 appoint an additional two citizens to serve as members of the committee, one of which
 32 shall be an internet of things expert, and one of which shall be a current or retired
 33 professor of internet technology at an accredited educational institution of higher
 34 learning.

35 (D) The executive director of the Georgia Technology Authority, or his or her
 36 designee, and the director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland
 37 Security Agency, or his or her designee, shall also serve as members of the committee.

38 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
 39 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
 40 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. In particular, the
 41 committee shall study:

42 (A) Any privacy protection requirements related to the collection, processing, and
 43 sharing of any data from connected computing devices;

44 (B) Methods the state may use to encourage and promote the investment by companies
 45 and the public in better internet of things related security measures; and

46 (C) Any additional security or privacy concerns that may need to be considered by the
 47 state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

72 **(6) Report.**

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

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

80 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
81 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
82 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
83 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate. Any
84 member of the committee may file a minority report that shall accompany the majority
85 report.

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

89 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2020.