

House Bill 723

By: Representatives Davis of the 87th, Mitchell of the 88th, Boddie of the 62nd, Jackson of the 64th, Evans of the 83rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to selling
2 and other trade practices, so as to provide for regulation of certain practices by providers of
3 broadband services; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 1 of Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to selling and other
8 trade practices, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

9 "ARTICLE 35

10 10-1-920.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Broadband internet access service' means a mass-market retail service by wire or
13 radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or
14 substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and

H. B. 723

15 enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up internet access
16 service.

17 (2) 'End user' means any individual or entity that uses a broadband internet access
18 service.

19 (3) 'Paid prioritization' means the management of a broadband provider's network to
20 directly or indirectly favor some traffic over other traffic, including through the use of
21 techniques such as traffic shaping, prioritization, resource reservation, or other forms of
22 preferential traffic management, either:

23 (A) In exchange for consideration, monetary or otherwise, from a third party; or

24 (B) To benefit an affiliated entity.

25 Such term shall not include the provision of tiered internet access service or offerings to
26 a retail end user.

27 (4) 'Reasonable network management' means a practice that has a primarily technical
28 network management justification, but shall not include other business practices. A
29 network management practice is reasonable if it is primarily used for and tailored to
30 achieving a legitimate network management purpose, taking into account the particular
31 network architecture and technology of the broadband internet access service.

32 (5) 'Tiered internet access service' means offering end users a choice between different
33 packages of service with clearly advertised speeds, prices, terms, and conditions; for
34 example, a 10 megabit service for one price and a 50 megabit service for a different price.

35 (b) Any person providing broadband internet access service in this state shall publicly
36 disclose accurate information regarding the network management practices, performance
37 characteristics, and commercial terms of its broadband internet access service sufficient to
38 enable consumers to make informed choices regarding the purchase and use of such service
39 and entrepreneurs and other small businesses to develop, market, and maintain internet
40 offerings. The disclosure shall be made via a publicly available, easily accessible website.

41 (c) A person engaged in the provision of broadband internet access service in this state,
42 insofar as the person is so engaged, shall not:

43 (1) Block lawful content, applications, services, or nonharmful devices, subject to
44 reasonable network management;

45 (2) Impair or degrade lawful internet traffic on the basis of internet content, application,
46 or service, or use of a nonharmful device, subject to reasonable network management; or

47 (3) Engage in paid prioritization.

48 (d) Nothing in this Code section:

49 (1) Supersedes any obligation or authorization a provider of broadband internet access
50 service may have to address the needs of emergency communications or law
51 enforcement, public safety, or national security authorities, consistent with or as
52 permitted by applicable law, or limits the provider's ability to do so; or

53 (2) Prohibits reasonable efforts by a provider of broadband internet access service to
54 address copyright infringement or other unlawful activity."

55 **SECTION 2.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.