

House Resolution 877

By: Representatives Mainor of the 56th, Setzler of the 35th, Jones of the 25th, Wilkerson of the 38th, and Smith of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Department of Education to dedicate personnel, funds, and other resources
2 to state-wide outreach efforts to promote and improve cybersecurity education, training, and
3 workforce development; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, cybersecurity related threats are among the most significant challenges to our
5 national and economic security; and

6 WHEREAS, there is a growing demand for skilled workers in the field of cybersecurity, and
7 at the same time Georgia is contending with a shortage of skilled workers in this field; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's population diversity continues to expand, and not only is the
9 participation of women and minorities in the workforce an important priority for industry,
10 state, and local leaders, but it also presents a solution to the shortage of skilled workers in the
11 cybersecurity field. The International Consortium of Minority Cybersecurity Professionals
12 recently estimated that 14 percent of the cyber workforce is female; only 6 percent of
13 workers in STEM fields are African American; and only 11 percent of workers in STEM
14 fields are Hispanic. Strategies to ensure that all capable contributors to Georgia's cyber
15 workforce, regardless of race, ethnicity, or sex, feel welcome and included are critical.
16 Under-participation of significant segments of our society represents a loss of opportunity

17 for individuals, a loss of talent in the workforce, and a loss of creativity and direction in
18 shaping the future of cybersecurity in Georgia. Not only is this a basic equity issue, but it
19 also threatens our global economic viability as a nation; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Cyber Center is a unique public-private collaboration of
21 government, the private sector, and academia, located on the Nathan Deal Campus for
22 Innovation in Augusta, with principal relations with the Georgia Technology Authority and
23 Augusta University; and

24 WHEREAS, the Georgia Cyber Center's e1337 training program focuses on developing the
25 workforce in a number of ways, one of which is to inspire elementary and secondary students
26 to pursue careers in STEM and cyber fields. The Georgia Cyber Center places its
27 educational focus on developing skills for problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity
28 in order to tackle any challenge, including cybersecurity challenges. The Georgia Cyber
29 Center offers specialized training to elementary and secondary teachers on cybersecurity; and

30 WHEREAS, the Georgia Cyber Center is a source of valuable expertise and resources which
31 should be expanded and promoted to help Georgia to address cybersecurity challenges facing
32 the state, to develop a skilled workforce in STEM and cyber fields, and to increase the
33 participation of women and minorities in these critical fields; and

34 WHEREAS, the Georgia Cyber Center currently has a strong and growing presence in one
35 part of the state, and with support from the Department of Education, the programs and
36 services offered by the Georgia Cyber Center can be spread to reach the entire state; and

37 WHEREAS, in collaboration with the Georgia Cyber Center, the Georgia Technology
38 Authority, and other entities operating in STEM and cyber fields, the Department of

39 Education can make an essential contribution to state-wide efforts related to promoting and
40 improving cybersecurity education, training, and workforce development.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body recognize the importance of the Department of Education
43 dedicating personnel, funds, and other resources to state-wide outreach efforts to promote
44 and improve cybersecurity education, training, and workforce development.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
47 representatives of the Department of Education.