

House Resolution 119

By: Representatives Sainz of the 180th, Townsend of the 179th, Petrea of the 166th, Mathiak of the 74th, Vance of the 133rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Censorship by Social Media Platforms; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, censorship of speech constitutes an increasingly common and concerning
4 practice by social media platforms; and

5 WHEREAS, social media platforms mostly have failed to adopt acceptable use policies; and

6 WHEREAS, issues of transparency and disclosure of internal policies and rules by social
7 media platforms merit public scrutiny; and

8 WHEREAS, the public's recourse to improper and inequitable treatment by social media
9 platforms is far from robust; and

10 WHEREAS, state legislators shall review issues surrounding censorship of speech by social
11 media platforms to determine whether legislation is in order.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA:

14 (1) **Creation of joint study committee.** There is created the Joint Study Committee on
15 Censorship by Social Media Platforms.

16 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of eight members as
17 follows:

18 (A) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint four members of the
19 House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall designate one such
20 member as cochairperson; and

21 (B) The President of the Senate shall appoint four members of the Senate as members
22 of the committee and shall designate one such member as cochairperson.

23 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
24 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
25 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

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

33 (B) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
34 by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are
35 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
36 from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

37 (6) **Report.**

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

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

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

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

52 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.