

Senate Resolution 431

By: Senators Harrell of the 40th and Anavitarte of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Impact of Social Media and Artificial Intelligence on Children and
2 Platform Privacy Protection Study Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the 21st century, children utilize social media through various online
4 platforms as a means to participate in society, access information, enjoy entertainment, and
5 connect with family and friends; and

6 WHEREAS, studies have shown that utilizing social media can have negative impacts on a
7 child's health and self-esteem; and

8 WHEREAS, children undergo rapid and evolving physical, mental, and emotional
9 development, rendering them more susceptible to the allure of peer pressure, novelty, and
10 rewards inherent in online social media usage; and

11 WHEREAS, extensive research shows that online social media platforms are embedded with
12 manipulative design techniques which promote addictive and compulsive use by children in
13 order to increase revenue; and

14 WHEREAS, studies show that utilizing current social media platforms can expose children
15 to significant privacy and safety risks; and

16 WHEREAS, artificial intelligence provides persons the opportunity to engage with greater
17 numbers of children in more targeted ways than ever before; and

18 WHEREAS, children are now exposed to chatbot websites and apps, powered by artificial
19 intelligence, that purport to allow children to interact with characters from popular media
20 while actually engaging those children in obscene conversations; and

21 WHEREAS, existing online protections addressing children are outdated; and

22 WHEREAS, a study is needed to evaluate the impact social media usage and artificial
23 intelligence has on children and to determine how existing online privacy protections may
24 be improved and strengthened to ensure safer access.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

26 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Impact of Social
27 Media and Artificial Intelligence on Children and Platform Privacy Protection Study
28 Committee.

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

31 (A) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate and shall
32 designate two of such members as cochairpersons of the committee. One such
33 cochairperson shall be a member of the majority party and one such cochairperson shall
34 be a member of the minority party;

35 (B) The commissioner of human services or his or her designee;

36 (C) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee; and

37 (D) The State School Superintendent or his or her designee.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

58 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
59 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
60 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
61 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of
62 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the

63 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
64 available to their respective agencies.

65 **(6) Report.**

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

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

73 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
74 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
75 A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the committee and filed
76 with the Secretary of the Senate.

77 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
78 Secretary of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
79 thereof.

80 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2025.