House Resolution 353  
By: Representatives Rakestraw of the 19th, Fleming of the 121st, Welch of the 110th, Spencer of the 180th, and Alexander of the 66th

A RESOLUTION

1. Creating the House Study Committee on Internet Filter Protection Technology; and for other purposes.

2. WHEREAS, the link between human trafficking issues and easily accessible online obscenity, child pornography, and links to prostitution hubs has been established in many different studies; and

3. WHEREAS, Georgia is battling against sex trafficking and sex trafficking is closely linked to addiction and behavioral and mental health issues; and

4. WHEREAS, a committee to study this public health problem is necessary to determine if Internet filtering devices are the best method to address the issue of all too easily accessible obscenity, child pornography, and links to prostitution hubs and which would result in the potential reduction and prevention of such issues; and

5. WHEREAS, beyond Internet filtering, a committee will further explore the potential for more effective temporary and long-term addiction and mental and behavioral health modalities to solve this public health problem which directly impacts homelessness, increased suicide rates, veterans with PTSD, the stable family unit, the education system, an overloaded DFACS system in this state, a clogged court system, and overcrowding in the state's correctional institutions; and

6. WHEREAS, this state has a compelling interest in protecting its youth and the public at large from being exposed to obscenity through products sold in this state that enable Internet access to minors; and

7. WHEREAS, this state has a compelling interest to protect consumers' freedom to choose to avoid their children's exposure to obscene websites; and
WHEREAS, other states are looking into the feasibility of imposing a filter deactivation fee to offset the secondary harmful effects and burden on the state that stem from exposure to such unfettered Internet access that is cultivated by products that enable access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers that sell products that enable access to the Internet did install filters that would protect consumers from accessing child pornography and other types of obscenity; and

WHEREAS, the money generated by a filter deactivation fee could be used by this state to fund much needed programs to provide temporary long-term residential mental health treatment, holistic mental health counseling, and treatment alternatives to psychiatric drug therapy for these issues; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the feasibility of installing filters on all products sold in this state that enable Internet access and enacting a filter deactivation fee to fund much needed mental and behavioral health and addiction programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

(1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee on Internet Filter Protection Technology.

(2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.

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

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

(5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.

(6) **Report.**

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

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

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

(D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

(7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2017.