

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
2 purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, this state has a compelling interest to protect consumers' freedom to choose to
22 avoid their children's exposure to obscene websites; and

23 WHEREAS, other states are looking into the feasibility of imposing a filter deactivation fee
24 to offset the secondary harmful effects and burden on the state that stem from exposure to
25 such unfettered Internet access that is cultivated by products that enable access to the
26 Internet; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
52 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
53 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
54 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.

55 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
56 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

57 **(6) Report.**

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

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

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

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

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