

House Resolution 553

By: Representatives Wilensky of the 79th, Fleming of the 121st, Smyre of the 135th, Kelley of the 16th, Beverly of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the House Study Committee on Cyberbullying; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, nearly 43 percent of children have been bullied online, and 25 percent of these
3 children have been subjected to such bullying more than once; and
- 4 WHEREAS, 70 percent of students report seeing frequent online bullying; and
- 5 WHEREAS, 68 percent of teenagers agree that cyberbullying is a serious problem; and
- 6 WHEREAS, 81 percent of young people think that bullying via the internet rather than
7 bullying in person makes it easier to avoid consequences and punishment; and
- 8 WHEREAS, only one in ten cyberbullying victims will inform a parent or trusted adult of
9 this abuse; and
- 10 WHEREAS, girls are twice as likely as boys to be victims and perpetrators of cyberbullying;
11 and
- 12 WHEREAS, cyberbullying victims are two to nine times more likely to consider committing
13 suicide; and
- 14 WHEREAS, children not only experience high levels of anxiety and worry during school due
15 to cyberbullying, but also find it difficult to concentrate on their studies when exposed to
16 cyberbullying; and
- 17 WHEREAS, a number of studies indicate that victims are more likely to report lower grades
18 and have other academic problems as a result of cyberbullying; and
- 19 WHEREAS, cyberbullying frequently includes threats of violence; and

20 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine what rules or legislation should be adopted that
21 prohibit and monitor cyberbullying, as well as what penalties might be appropriate for
22 violation of such rules and legislation.

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

24 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
25 on Cyberbullying.

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

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

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

37 (5) **Allowances and funding.**

38 (A) Members of the committee who are members of the General Assembly shall
39 receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
40 Georgia Annotated.

41 (B) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
42 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
43 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
44 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

45 (6) **Report.**

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

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

53 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
54 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.

55 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
56 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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

60 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.