

Senate Resolution 806

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

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Social Media on Children and  
2 Platform Privacy Protection; 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16 WHEREAS, existing online privacy protections addressing children are outdated; and

17 WHEREAS, a study is needed to evaluate the impact social media usage has on children and  
18 to determine how existing online privacy protections may be improved and strengthened to  
19 ensure safer access.

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

21 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee  
22 on the Impact of Social Media on Children and Platform Privacy Protection.

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

25 (A) The President of the Senate shall appoint five members of the Senate and shall  
26 designate two of such members as co-chairpersons of the committee. One such  
27 co-chairperson shall be a member of the majority party and one such co-chairperson  
28 shall be a member of the minority party;

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

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

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

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

35 (4) **Meetings.** The chairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee  
36 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or

37 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
38 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

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

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

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

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

52 (D) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member  
53 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds  
54 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds  
55 appropriated to the Senate; except that funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of  
56 state officials, other than legislative members, and for the reimbursement of the  
57 expenses of state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise  
58 available to their respective agencies.

59 **(6) Report.**

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

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

67 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of  
68 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.  
69 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairpersons of the committee and filed  
70 with the Secretary of the Senate.

71 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairpersons may file with the Secretary  
72 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

73 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2024.