

The House Committee on Special Rules offers the following substitute to HR 119:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Social Media Platforms and Accountability; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, censorship of speech constitutes an increasingly common and concerning
4 practice by social media platforms; and

5 WHEREAS, social media has an impact on youth mental health and self-esteem; and

6 WHEREAS, bad experiences on social media may lead to negative body image issues and
7 self-harm, especially with teen girls;

8 WHEREAS, social media platforms have mostly failed to adopt acceptable use policies; and

9 WHEREAS, social media may have a negative impact on issues of transparency and
10 consumer data protection, and disclosures of internal policies and rules by social media
11 platforms merit public scrutiny; and

12 WHEREAS, the public's recourse to improper and inequitable treatment by social media
13 platforms is far from robust; and

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14 WHEREAS, foreign government influences and ownership of social media platforms may
15 be, in certain instances, harmful to the interests of Georgians; and

16 WHEREAS, members of the House of Representatives shall review social media's impact
17 on youth health and self-esteem as well as issues surrounding censorship of speech by social
18 media platforms to determine whether legislation is in order.

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

20 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
21 on Social Media Platforms and Accountability.

22 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
23 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

39 (6) **Report.**

40 (A) The committee shall adopt specific findings or recommendations that include
41 suggestions for proposed legislation and the chairperson shall file a report of the same
42 prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to subparagraph (B)
43 of this paragraph.

44 (B) A report shall be filed only if it has been approved prior to the date of abolishment
45 specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee. A report so
46 approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with the Clerk
47 of the House of Representatives.

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

51 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2023.