Resolve, To Study Using Blockchain Technology in Conjunction with Paper Ballots in Maine Elections

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: MASON of Androscoggin.
Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve establishes the Commission to Study Using Blockchain Technology in Conjunction with Paper Ballots in Maine Elections; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Using Blockchain Technology in Conjunction with Paper Ballots in Maine Elections, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of the following members:

1. Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

2. Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

3. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee; and

4. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee; and be it further

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall study the potential uses for blockchain technology to support and enhance Maine's current paper ballot election
system for the purpose of improving paper ballot security, increasing election
transparency and reducing costs; and be it further

   Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide
necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

   Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 6, 2017, the commission
shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

   Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Commission to Study Using Blockchain Technology in
Conjunction with Paper Ballots in Maine Elections.