



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 950

S.P. 305

In Senate, March 9, 2017

**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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: MASON of Androscoggin.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the potential uses for
36 blockchain technology to support and enhance Maine's current paper ballot election

1 system for the purpose of improving paper ballot security, increasing election
2 transparency and reducing costs; and be it further

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

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

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

10 **SUMMARY**

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