

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 909

H.P. 673

House of Representatives, February 19, 2019

**Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Economic and Community
Development To Establish a Blockchain Technology Working
Group**

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and
Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram.

1 **Sec. 1. Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to**
2 **establish a blockchain technology working group. Resolved:** That the
3 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, referred to in this resolve as
4 "the commissioner," shall establish a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the
5 group," to develop a master plan for fostering the expansion of the blockchain technology
6 industry in the State and recommend policies and investments to make the State a leader
7 in blockchain technology. For purposes of this resolve, "blockchain technology" means a
8 list of digital records linked together using cryptography that is resistant to modification
9 of the data in the records, creating an open, distributed ledger that records a transaction
10 between 2 or more parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent manner.

11 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall appoint to the
12 group at least 5 members who have knowledge and experience in blockchain technology
13 or represent an industry that could benefit from blockchain technology and at least 2
14 members representing a postsecondary educational institution in the State. The
15 commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the
16 group. All appointments must be made within 30 days of the effective date of this
17 resolve. The members of the group shall select a chair from the group's membership.
18 Members of the group serve without compensation. The Department of Economic and
19 Community Development shall provide administrative support to the group. The group
20 shall disband after completing its duties under section 3.

21 **Sec. 3. Meetings; duties. Resolved:** That the chair shall schedule the first
22 meeting of the group within 30 days of the date of the final appointment to the group. The
23 group shall meet at other times the chair determines necessary to perform and complete
24 the duties of the group. The group shall develop a master plan that:

- 25 1. Identifies the economic growth and development opportunities presented by
26 blockchain technology;
- 27 2. Assesses existing blockchain technology in the State;
- 28 3. Reviews workforce needs and academic programs required to build blockchain
29 technology expertise across all relevant industries; and
- 30 4. Makes recommendations of policies and investments that will help promote
31 innovation and economic growth by reducing barriers to and expediting the expansion of
32 the State's blockchain technology industry.

33 Upon completion of the master plan, the group shall submit the master plan to the
34 commissioner for review and any changes to the plan that the commissioner determines
35 appropriate.

36 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 2, 2020, the
37 commissioner shall submit a report including the master plan described under section 3
38 and any recommended legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
39 having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business

1 matters. The committee may report out legislation concerning the master plan to the First
2 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

3

SUMMARY

4 This resolve directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to
5 establish a working group to develop a master plan for fostering the expansion of the
6 blockchain technology industry in the State and recommend policies and investments to
7 make the State a leader in blockchain technology. Blockchain technology, used in the
8 creation of Bitcoin and other digital currencies, consists of a list of digital records linked
9 together using cryptography that is resistant to modification of the data in the records,
10 creating an open, distributed ledger that records a transaction between 2 or more parties
11 efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent manner. This resolve directs the
12 commissioner to submit the master plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
13 having jurisdiction over innovation, development, economic advancement and business
14 matters by December 2, 2020 and authorizes the committee to report out legislation to the
15 First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.