

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2155

S.P. 763

In Senate, April 7, 1999

**Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a
Comprehensive Internet Policy.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KONTOS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative TRIPP of Topsham.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** the Internet continues to grow and it is essential
to ensure delivery of social and economic benefits to the State;
and

8
10 **Whereas,** it is necessary to consider what type of statewide
computing and communications investment strategy will stimulate
public investment and create more opportunities and incentives
12 for information technology business to locate in the State; and

14 **Whereas,** it is imperative to address how to develop and
maintain a highly qualified information technology workforce to
16 support business growth; and

18 **Whereas,** it is essential to create a business and regulatory
policy that will ensure that Maine is an attractive location for
20 information technology companies and their employees; and

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

28 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Blue Ribbon
Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy, referred
30 to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it
further

32 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
34 consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

36 1. Five members from the information industry, appointed by
the Governor;

38 2. Four Legislators from the Joint Standing Committee on
40 Business and Economic Development, appointed jointly by the
President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

42 3. One member from the University of Maine System,
44 appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System;

46 4. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
designee; and

48 5. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
50 or the commissioner's designee; and be it further

2 **Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
3 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
4 effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
5 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
6 authorities once the selections have been made. Within 15 days
7 after appointment of all members, the Chair of the Legislative
8 Council shall call and convene the first meeting of the
9 commission. The commission shall select a chair from among its
10 members; and be it further

12 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study
13 issues related to the future of information technology in the
14 State, including, but not limited to:

16 1. The facilitation of electronic commerce for Maine
17 companies;

18 2. Making government more accessible to the citizens;

20 3. The protection of consumer and citizen privacy;

22 4. The mitigation of unsolicited bulk e-mail or spamming;

24 5. The regulation of hate mail and pornography; and

26 6. The elimination of electronic crimes; and be it further

28 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may
29 request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council; and be
30 it further

32 **Sec. 6. Expenses. Resolved:** That the members of the
33 commission may not receive any compensation or reimbursement for
34 expenses; and be it further

36 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That no later than January 15,
37 2000, the commission shall submit its report, together with any
38 necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing
39 Committee on Business and Economic Development and the Executive
40 Director of the Legislative Council. The Joint Standing
41 Committee on Business and Economic Development is authorized to
42 report out any legislation during the Second Regular Session of
43 the 119th Legislature concerning the findings and recommendations
44 of the commission.

46 If the commission requires an extension, it may apply to the
47 Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

49 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
50 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

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This resolve establishes the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy.