

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 995, L.D. 2557, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy"

Amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "**§9502.**" by inserting after subsection 2 the following:

'3. State agency. "State agency" means a state department, agency, office, board, commission, quasi-independent agency, authority or institution.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "**§9503.**" in the first paragraph in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 14, lines 3 and 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "department, agency, office, board, commission, quasi-independent agency, authority or institution" and inserting in its place the following: 'agency'

Further amend the bill in section 2 by inserting after that part designated "**§9504.**" the following:

'**§9505. Effect of electronic filing with digital signature**

A state agency may allow the electronic filing of information required by that agency. Information filed electronically with a state agency utilizing a digital signature has the same force and effect as if filed as a paper document with a manual signature.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "**§9505.**" in the first paragraph in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 14, lines 18 and 19 in L.D.) by striking out the following:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

"public entity" and inserting in its place the following: 'state agency'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "CHAPTER 1053" by renumbering the sections to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following:

'Sec. 4. Report on use of credit cards. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall each submit a report detailing the impact of the acceptance of payments by credit cards on each agency's budget. Each report must include the total number of agency transactions that included the use of credit cards, the dollar amount attributable to credit card transactions and the cost savings or loss to the agency. The report must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs by January 20, 2001.

Sec. 5. Effective date. Section 1 of this Act takes effect on July 1, 2001.

Sec. 6. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2000-01

LEGISLATURE

Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy

Personal Services	\$1,375
All Other	1,750
TOTAL	\$3,125

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy and to print the required report.'

2 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
summary the following:

6 **FISCAL NOTE**

8 **2000-01**

10 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

12 General Fund \$3,125

14  
16 Effective July 1, 2001, this bill will require state  
18 departments and agencies to implement procedures for accepting  
20 payments by major credit cards or other electronic means. The  
22 administrative expenses and credit card fees incurred in  
24 connection with this method of receiving funds must be absorbed  
26 within the existing budget of each department or agency. The  
credit card fees for several state departments and agencies may  
represent a significant increase in their expenses that without  
additional resources may have a significant effect on the  
programs of that department or agency. The amount of the  
additional funding required by agencies to avoid program impacts  
beginning in fiscal year 2001-02 can not be determined at this  
time.

28  
30 This bill also expands the options for conducting business  
32 with state and local government via electronic media. These  
expanded options may result in future implementation costs which  
may or may not be offset by future operating savings, if agencies  
chose to expand the use of electronic media.

34  
36 The Bureau of Revenue Services and the Department of  
38 Professional and Financial Regulation will incur some minor  
40 additional costs to each submit a report detailing the impact of  
accepting credit card payments on their agencies' budgets. These  
costs can be absorbed within the agencies' existing budgeted  
resources.

42  
44 This bill includes an additional General Fund appropriation  
46 of \$3,125 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the  
payment of the per diem and expenses of legislative members of  
the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet  
Policy and to print the required report.

48  
50 The additional costs associated with providing staffing  
assistance to the commission during the interim between  
legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing

existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting  
2 deadline is granted and the commission requires staffing  
assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may  
4 require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for  
staff services.

6  
Several state departments and agencies will incur some minor  
8 additional costs to participate as members of the commission.  
These costs can be absorbed within the respective agencies'  
10 existing budgeted resources.'

12  
**SUMMARY**

14  
This amendment makes the following proposed changes to the  
16 Maine Digital Signature Act:

18 1. It defines "state agency"; and

20 2. It provides that information filed electronically with a  
state agency that uses a digital signature has the same force and  
22 effect as a paper document filed with a manual signature.

24 The amendment also puts an effective date of July 1, 2001 on  
the required acceptance of credit cards by state agencies. It  
26 also directs the Department of Administrative and Financial  
Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and the Department of  
28 Professional and Financial Regulation to submit reports on the  
budgetary impact of their acceptance of credit cards. Finally,  
30 it adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.