

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1632

S.P. 513

In Senate, March 13, 2001

**Resolve, Directing the Maine Science and Technology Foundation to
Determine the Physical Condition of Information Technology
Infrastructure in the State.**

(EMERGENCY)

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 President Pro Tem BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator SHOREY of Washington, Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou,
Speaker SAXL of Portland.

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, information technology infrastructure is vital to
the economic well-being of the State; and

8 Whereas, the rural areas of the State, most in need of
economic development, tend to be the farthest behind in
information technology infrastructure; and

10
12 Whereas, the advance of information technology is moving
faster than ever before and can outpace the capabilities of
existing infrastructure in even a matter of months; and

14
16 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

22 **Sec. 1. Maine Science and Technology Foundation to determine the
physical condition of information technology infrastructure in the State.**

24 **Resolved:** That the Maine Science and Technology Foundation shall
determine the physical condition of the information technology
infrastructure in the State; and be it further

26
28 **Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved:** That the Maine Science and
Technology Foundation, in carrying out the purposes of this
resolve, shall perform the following duties:

30
32 1. Draft a request for information on information
technology infrastructure in the State and disseminate this
request to and encourage a response from telecommunications
service providers, Internet service providers, wireless service
providers and digital satellite and cable television companies;

34
36
38 2. Identify specific geographic areas where advanced
telecommunications capability is deployed at a significantly
lower rate than the rest of the State; and

40
42 3. Study the following:

44 A. The investment in telecommunications facilities with
advanced capabilities in rural areas, including an
assessment of the various levels of capability deployed
under different technologies, the bandwidth capabilities of
the deployment and whether or not comparable bandwidth is
deployed consistently;

- 2 B. The availability of telecommunications backbone networks
4 and "last mile" facilities with advanced capability in rural
6 areas;
- 6 C. The capability of various technological enhancements to
8 existing wired and wireless networks to provide "last mile"
10 advanced telecommunications capability in rural areas; and
- 12 D. The feasibility of various technological alternatives to
14 provide "last mile" advanced telecommunications capability
16 in rural areas.

14 The Maine Science and Technology Foundation may employ outside
16 consultants and experts to assist in carrying out the duties
18 listed in this section. The Public Utilities Commission,
20 Department of Education, Department of Economic and Community
22 Development, Public Advocate's Office, University of Maine
24 System, Maine Technical College System, Executive Department,
State Planning Office and Department of Administrative and
Financial Services, Bureau of Information Services, Office of
Geographic Information Systems shall cooperate with the Maine
Science and Technology Foundation in carrying out the duties
listed in this section; and be it further

26 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Maine Science and
28 Technology Foundation shall report its recommendations, together
30 with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint
32 Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development no later
34 than December 31, 2001. The Joint Standing Committee on Business
and Economic Development may report out legislation pursuant to
this resolve to the Second Regular Session of the 120th
Legislature.

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

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This resolve directs the Maine Science and Technology
42 Foundation, along with comments from information technology
44 interests and cooperation from various other agencies of the
46 State, to determine the physical condition of the information
technology infrastructure in the State, in particular in rural
areas, and to report its recommendations, together with any
necessary implementing legislation, to the Legislature.