



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document	No. 1372
H.P. 951	House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

An Act To Increase Broadband Access for Rural Communities

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative HERBIG of Belfast. Cosponsored by Senator MAKER of Washington and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HARVELL of Farmington, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RILEY of Jay, SANBORN of Portland, STANLEY of Medway, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	CONCEPT DRAFT
3	SUMMARY
4	This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.
5 6	This bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase broadband access for rural communities. Specifically, this bill proposes to:
7 8	1. Direct the ConnectME Authority to create an accurate map of broadband coverage in the State. The mapping project should delineate, at a minimum:
9	A. Those areas of the State that do not have access to broadband coverage;
10 11 12	B. For those areas of the State without access to broadband coverage, the infrastructure in place that might be used to expand access, including, but not limited to, poles, nodes, and fiber optic cable; and
13 14	C. For those areas of the State with access to broadband coverage, the type or types of available broadband coverage and the associated connection speeds; and
15 16 17 18 19	2. Direct the ConnectME Authority to provide funding for the provision of digital literacy programs, particularly in rural areas of the State. A digital literacy program funded pursuant to this requirement must have a history of success in increasing fluency in the use and security of interactive digital tools and searchable networks, including the ability to use digital tools safely and effectively for learning, collaborating and producing.