A concurrent resolution requesting the Legislative Management to study the potential benefit value of blockchain technology implementation and utilization in state government administration and affairs.

WHEREAS, blockchain is a decentralized distributed ledger technology which allows creation, validation, and encrypted transaction of digital assets to happen and be recorded in an incorruptible way; and

WHEREAS, blockchain allows peer-to-peer and business-to-business transactions to be completed without the need for a third party, which is often a bank, effectively reducing transaction costs; and

WHEREAS, recording transactions through blockchain virtually eliminates human error and protects the data from possible tampering; and

WHEREAS, a hyperconnected government enables unprecedented transparency and efficiency where services are tailored to an individual's needs; and

WHEREAS, new blockchain systems could focus on other types of transactions, such as exchanging titles for houses or cars, essentially decentralizing the infrastructure for these sales and making them faster and cheaper compared to what would normally be a slow complicated trudge through bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming have introduced legislation for possible implementation of blockchain in state government; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia and Utah have begun blockchain pilot projects related to voting at primary elections, Delaware and Illinois have sponsored initiatives on blockchain, and the Governor of Colorado has created a blockchain-related council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:
That the Legislative Management consider studying the potential benefit value of blockchain technology implementation and utilization in state government administration and affairs, including a comprehensive assessment of government areas in which blockchain technology can assist with agency affairs and administration, accounting and budgeting, transactions, creating necessary audit trails, authorizing a decision, authenticating authority, and establishing a system of record; and an analytical evaluation of implementing smart contracts to improve efficiencies in contract enforcement, the cost-effectiveness and increased security of utilizing a blockchain technology electronic voting system, and the exploration of other eGovernment services and applications, such as identity management, tax collection, land registry, distribution of benefits, and digital exchanges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendation, to the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly.