

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Information Technology Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution requesting the Legislative Management to study the potential benefits of  
2 distributed ledger technology and blockchain for state government.

3 **WHEREAS**, distributed ledger technology is a database containing replicated, shared, and  
4 synchronized digital data that is available to users at multiple sites, countries, or institutions  
5 without the use of a central administrator or centralized data storage; and

6 **WHEREAS**, blockchain is a decentralized distributed ledger technology which allows for the  
7 creation, validation, and encrypted transactions of digital assets to be recorded in an  
8 incorruptible way; and

9 **WHEREAS**, new blockchain data, called "blocks", are added to existing data in the  
10 distributed ledger but does not change or delete the existing data, allowing users to detect  
11 intentional or unintentional tampering of data; and

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

15 **WHEREAS**, blockchain was initially used with cryptocurrency but can also be used for other  
16 purposes, including tracking produce and dairy products from growers to consumers, tracking  
17 marijuana from seed to sale to consumers, exchanging titles for real estate or automobiles,  
18 copyright and royalty protection, identity verification, tracking prescription drugs, maintaining  
19 medical records, weapons tracking, creating digital contracts, wills, and inheritances, and  
20 allowing for digital election voting to prevent voter fraud; and

21 **WHEREAS**, blockchain in government involves data participants, government digital  
22 business assets, privacy and confidentiality of transactions between parties, and governance of  
23 rules and operations of blockchain and distributed ledger technology; and

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

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

7       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF**  
8 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

9       That the Legislative Management consider studying the potential benefits of digital ledger  
10 technology and blockchain in state government, including an evaluation of the effects on  
11 government accounting and budgeting, decisionmaking, information technology authentication,  
12 records management, remote electronic voting, and other eGovernment services and  
13 applications, such as tax collection, land registry, distribution of benefits, digital currencies, and  
14 other potential benefits; and

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