



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1372

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H.P. 951

House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

### **An Act To Increase Broadband Access for Rural Communities**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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 This bill proposes to enact measures designed to increase broadband access for rural  
6 communities. Specifically, this bill proposes to:

7 1. Direct the ConnectME Authority to create an accurate map of broadband coverage  
8 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 B. For those areas of the State without access to broadband coverage, the  
11 infrastructure in place that might be used to expand access, including, but not limited  
12 to, poles, nodes, and fiber optic cable; and

13 C. For those areas of the State with access to broadband coverage, the type or types  
14 of available broadband coverage and the associated connection speeds; and

15 2. Direct the ConnectME Authority to provide funding for the provision of digital  
16 literacy programs, particularly in rural areas of the State. A digital literacy program  
17 funded pursuant to this requirement must have a history of success in increasing fluency  
18 in the use and security of interactive digital tools and searchable networks, including the  
19 ability to use digital tools safely and effectively for learning, collaborating and producing.