



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1070

LR 1710(01)

An Act to Increase Ballot Transparency with Blockchain Technology

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Brakey of Androscoggin

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill requires all electronic tabulating devices to scan and extract vote data from the ballot and create a blockchain transaction for every ballot which would be maintained on a publicly accessible website. Currently, only 329 towns have ballot scanning and counting machines, 156 do not and none are connected to a network. These remaining towns would need to have electronic tabulators and all tabulators would need to be connected to a network. According to the Department of Secretary of State, significant costs and work would need to occur to overcome cybersecurity exposure caused by attaching the tabulators to a network. Further, the technology and devices needed to extract tabulator information to create a block chain transaction does not currently exist and would need to be developed. The department has estimated these costs to be as much as \$10 million or more.