Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3002

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Information Technology Committee)

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, blockchain in government involves data participants, government digital business assets, privacy and confidentiality of transactions between parties, and governance of rules and operations of blockchain and distributed ledger technology; 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 benefits of digital ledger technology and blockchain in state government, including an evaluation of the effects on government accounting and budgeting, decisionmaking, information technology authentication, records management, remote electronic voting, and other eGovernment services and applications, such as tax collection, land registry, distribution of benefits, digital currencies, and other potential benefits; and

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