1   L.D. 1372

2   Date: (Filing No. H-   )

3   **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

4   Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5   **STATE OF MAINE**

6   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

7   **128TH LEGISLATURE**

8   **SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

9   COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "   " to H.P. 951, L.D. 1372, Bill, "An Act To
10   Increase Broadband Access for Rural Communities"

11   Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

12   **'Resolve, To Increase Digital Literacy Education in Rural Communities'**

13   Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

14   **'Sec. 1.   Establishment of digital literacy education pilot programs.**
15   **Resolved:** That the ConnectME Authority, established in the Maine Revised Statutes,
16   Title 35-A, section 9203, shall, to the extent funds are provided, establish pilot programs
17   in counties in which 70% of the population lives in rural areas as identified in the 2010
18   United States Census to provide digital literacy education. The ConnectME Authority
19   shall partner with organizations that have a history of success in increasing digital
20   literacy; and be it further

21   **Sec. 2. Program requirements. Resolved:** That a digital literacy education
22   pilot program under section 1 must be focused on but not limited to increasing fluency in
23   the use and security of interactive digital tools and searchable networks, including the
24   ability to use digital tools safely and effectively for learning, collaborating and producing
25   digital content. A digital literacy education pilot program may be established for no more
26   than 3 years, except that the ConnectME Authority may authorize an extension of up to
27   one year for a program. The assessment established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
28   35-A, section 9211, subsection 2 may not be used to fund any digital literacy education
29   pilot program; and be it further

30   **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the ConnectME Authority shall submit a report
31   by January 1, 2022 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
32   over utilities and technology matters that evaluates the success of the pilot programs
33   established under this resolve. The report must include the following:

34   1. Suggested changes to extend any digital literacy education programs or for the
35   creation of a permanent statewide program to provide digital literacy education;

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1   2. The total costs of any digital literacy education pilot programs and the estimated
2 cost to create and maintain a statewide program; and

3   3. Any additional training or programs the authority believes could support the State
4 in achieving increased digital literacy.

5   The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular
6 Session of the 130th Legislature; and be it further

7   **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
8 appropriations and allocations are made.

9 **CONNECTME AUTHORITY**

10 **Digital Literacy Education Pilot Programs N282**

11 Initiative: Provides funding for digital literacy education pilot programs.

GENERAL FUND	**2017-18**	**2018-19**
All Other	$0	$114,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	$0	$114,000

16   '

17   **SUMMARY**

18   This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the ConnectME
19 Authority to establish digital literacy education pilot programs in rural areas. It specifies
20 that programs may not be established for more than 3 years, except that the authority may
21 extend a program by up to one year. It requires the authority to report, by January 1,
22 2022, on the success of the pilot programs and include in the report recommendations for
23 a permanent, statewide program and the cost of such a program. It allows the committee
24 of jurisdiction to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the
25 130th Legislature. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

26   **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

27   **(See attached)**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT