

Calendar No. 373

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 553

[Report No. 116–177]

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a working group to recommend to Congress a definition of blockchain technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Reported by Mr. WICKER, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a working group to recommend to Congress a definition of blockchain technology, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Blockchain Promotion
3 Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND DEFINITION OF**
5 **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “Federal agency” has the meaning
8 given the term “agency” in section 551 of title 5,
9 United States Code; and

10 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
11 of Commerce.

12 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
14 tablish within the Department of Commerce a working
15 group to be known as the “Blockchain Working Group”.

16 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Blockchain Working
18 Group shall be composed of members, the number of
19 whom shall be determined by the Secretary, and who
20 shall be appointed in accordance with paragraph (2).

21 (2) APPOINTMENT.—

22 (A) REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL
23 AGENCIES.—

24 (i) DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL AGEN-
25 CIES.—The Secretary shall designate Fed-
26 eral agencies to be represented in the

Blockchain Working Group, as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure representation of a cross-section of Federal agencies that could use, or benefit from, blockchain technology.

(ii) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

The head of each Federal agency designated under clause (i) shall appoint an officer or employee of the Federal agency to serve as a member of the Blockchain Working Group.

(B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint representatives of nongovernmental stakeholders with respect to blockchain technology to serve as members of the Blockchain Working Group.

(ii) REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED.—The members of the Blockchain Working Group appointed under clause (i) shall include ~~representatives of~~—

(I) *representatives of* information and communications technology man-

1 manufacturers, suppliers, software pro-
 2 viders, service providers, and vendors;

3 (II) subject matter experts rep-
 4 resenting industrial sectors, other
 5 than the technology sector, that the
 6 Secretary determines could use, or
 7 benefit from, blockchain technology;

8 (III) *representatives of* small, me-
 9 dium, and large businesses;

10 (IV) individuals and *representa-*
 11 *tives of* institutions engaged in aca-
 12 demic research relating to blockchain
 13 technology;

14 (V) *representatives of* nonprofit
 15 organizations and consumer advocacy
 16 groups engaged in activities relating
 17 to blockchain technology; and

18 (VI) *representatives of* rural and
 19 urban stakeholders.

20 (C) *NO PAY FOR MEMBERS.*—*A member of*
 21 *the Blockchain Working Group shall serve with-*
 22 *out pay.*

23 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
 25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Blockchain

Working Group shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(A) a recommended definition of the distributed ledger technology commonly known as “blockchain technology”; and

(B) recommendations for—

(i) a study to be conducted by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, on the impact of blockchain technology on electromagnetic spectrum policy;

(ii) a study to examine a range of potential applications, including nonfinancial applications, for blockchain technology; and

(iii) opportunities for Federal agencies to use blockchain technology.

(2) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN

NIST INTERNAL REPORT 8202.—In making recommendations under paragraph (1), the Blockchain Working Group may consider any recommendations contained in National Institute of Standards and Technology Internal Report 8202, entitled

1 “Blockchain Technology Overview” and published in
2 October 2018.

3 (e) *TERMINATION.*—*The Blockchain Working Group*
4 *shall terminate on the date on which the Blockchain Work-*
5 *ing Group submits to Congress the report under subsection*
6 *(d)(1).*

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