

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6572

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to take actions necessary and appropriate to promote the competitiveness of the United States related to the deployment, use, application, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger 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 “Deploying American
3 Blockchains Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY OR OTHER DIS-**
7 **TRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY.**—The term
8 “blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
9 technology” means a distributed digital database
10 where data is—

11 (A) shared across a network of computers
12 to create a ledger of verified information among
13 network participants;

14 (B) linked using cryptography to maintain
15 the integrity of the ledger and to execute other
16 functions; and

17 (C) distributed among network partici-
18 pants in an automated fashion to concurrently
19 update network participants on the state of the
20 ledger and other functions.

21 (2) **COVERED NONGOVERNMENTAL REPRESENT-**
22 **ATIVES.**—The term “covered nongovernmental rep-
23 resentatives” means representatives as specified in
24 the second sentence of section 135(b)(1) of the
25 Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(b)(1)), except

1 that such term does not include representatives of
2 non-Federal governments.

3 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Commerce.

5 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
6 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
7 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
8 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

9 (5) TOKEN.—The term “token” means a trans-
10 ferable, digital representation of information re-
11 corded on blockchain technology or other distributed
12 ledger technology.

13 (6) TOKENIZATION.—The term “tokenization”
14 means the process of creating a token.

15 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP ON**
16 **BLOCKCHAIN.**

17 (a) FUNCTION OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall
18 serve as the principal advisor to the President for policy
19 pertaining to the deployment, use, application, and com-
20 petitiveness of blockchain technology or other distributed
21 ledger technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
22 nology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and
23 tokenization.

24 (b) ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall take actions
25 necessary and appropriate to support the leadership of the

1 United States with respect to the deployment, use, appli-
2 cation, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or
3 other distributed ledger technology, applications built on
4 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-
5 nology, tokens, and tokenization, including by—

6 (1) developing policies and recommendations on
7 issues and risks related to the deployment, use, ap-
8 plication, and competitiveness of blockchain tech-
9 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
10 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
11 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization,
12 including the issues of decentralized identity, cyber-
13 security, key storage and security systems, artificial
14 intelligence, fraud reduction, regulatory compliance,
15 e-commerce, health care applications, and supply
16 chain resiliency;

17 (2) supporting and promoting the stability,
18 maintenance, improvement, and security of
19 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
20 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
21 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
22 kens, and tokenization;

23 (3) helping to promote the leadership of the
24 United States with respect to the deployment, use,
25 application, and competitiveness of blockchain tech-

1 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
2 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
3 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization
4 through the establishment of a Blockchain Deploy-
5 ment Program in the Department of Commerce;

6 (4) promoting the national security and eco-
7 nomic security of the United States with respect to
8 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
9 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
10 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
11 kens, and tokenization;

12 (5) supporting engagement with the public to
13 promote the best practices described in subsection
14 (c);

15 (6) considering policies and programs to en-
16 courage and improve coordination among Federal
17 agencies with respect to the deployment of
18 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
19 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
20 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
21 kens, and tokenization;

22 (7) examining—

23 (A) how Federal agencies can benefit from
24 utilizing blockchain technology or other distrib-
25 uted ledger technology, applications built on

1 blockchain technology or other distributed ledg-
2 er technology, tokens, and tokenization;

3 (B) the current use by Federal agencies of
4 blockchain technology or other distributed ledg-
5 er technology, applications built on blockchain
6 technology or other distributed ledger tech-
7 nology, tokens, and tokenization;

8 (C) the current and future preparedness
9 and ability of Federal agencies to adopt
10 blockchain technology or other distributed ledg-
11 er technology, applications built on blockchain
12 technology or other distributed ledger tech-
13 nology, tokens, and tokenization; and

14 (D) additional security measures Federal
15 agencies may need to take to—

16 (i) safely and securely use blockchain
17 technology or other distributed ledger tech-
18 nology, applications built on blockchain
19 technology or other distributed ledger tech-
20 nology, tokens, and tokenization, including
21 to ensure the security of critical infrastruc-
22 ture; and

23 (ii) enhance the resiliency of Federal
24 systems against cyber threats to blockchain
25 technology or other distributed ledger tech-

1 nology, applications built on blockchain
2 technology or other distributed ledger tech-
3 nology, tokens, and tokenization;

4 (8) supporting coordination of the activities of
5 the Federal Government related to the security of
6 blockchain technology and other distributed ledger
7 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
8 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
9 kens, and tokenization; and

10 (9) not later than 180 days after the date of
11 the enactment of this Act, establishing advisory com-
12 mittees to support the adoption of blockchain tech-
13 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
14 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
15 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization,
16 the membership of which shall include—

17 (A) the Secretary;

18 (B) representatives of Federal agencies (as
19 determined necessary by the Secretary); and

20 (C) nongovernmental stakeholders with ex-
21 pertise related to blockchain technology or other
22 distributed ledger technology, including—

23 (i) blockchain technology or other dis-
24 tributed ledger technology infrastructure

1 operators, suppliers, service providers, and
2 vendors;

3 (ii) application developers building on
4 blockchain technology or other distributed
5 ledger technology;

6 (iii) developers and organizations sup-
7 porting the advancement and deployment
8 of public blockchain technology or other
9 distributed ledger technology;

10 (iv) subject matter experts rep-
11 resenting industrial sectors that can ben-
12 efit from blockchain technology or other
13 distributed ledger technology;

14 (v) small, medium, and large busi-
15 nesses;

16 (vi) think tanks and academia;

17 (vii) nonprofit organizations and con-
18 sumer groups;

19 (viii) cybersecurity experts;

20 (ix) rural stakeholders;

21 (x) covered nongovernmental rep-
22 resentatives;

23 (xi) artists and the content creator
24 community; and

1 (xii) other stakeholders with relevant
2 expertise (as determined necessary by the
3 Secretary).

4 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall, on an
5 ongoing basis, facilitate and support the development and
6 dissemination of best practices with respect to blockchain
7 technology or other distributed ledger technology, applica-
8 tions built on blockchain technology or other distributed
9 ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization that—

10 (1) support the private sector, the public sector,
11 and public-private partnerships in the deployment of
12 technologies needed to advance the capabilities of
13 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
14 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
15 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
16 kens, and tokenization;

17 (2) support the interoperability of blockchain
18 technology or other distributed ledger technology,
19 applications built on blockchain technology or other
20 distributed ledger technology, tokens, and
21 tokenization;

22 (3) support operations, including hashing and
23 key storage and security systems, that form the
24 foundation of blockchain technology or other distrib-
25 uted ledger technology, applications built on

1 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
2 technology, tokens, and tokenization;

3 (4) reduce cybersecurity and other risks that
4 may compromise blockchain technology or other dis-
5 tributed ledger technology, applications built on
6 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
7 technology, tokens, and tokenization;

8 (5) reduce uncertainty and risks in the use of
9 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
10 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
11 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
12 kens, and tokenization; and

13 (6) quantify the value and potential cost sav-
14 ings associated with adoption of blockchain tech-
15 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
16 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
17 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization,
18 including through comparative analyses of competing
19 and existing technologies within specific industry ap-
20 plications.

21 (d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out
22 this section, the Secretary shall—

23 (1) consult closely and regularly with stake-
24 holders, including private sector individuals and enti-
25 ties, and incorporate industry expertise;

1 (2) collaborate with private sector stakeholders
2 to identify prioritized, flexible, repeatable, perform-
3 ance-based, and cost-effective approaches to the de-
4 ployment of blockchain technology or other distrib-
5 uted ledger technology, applications built on
6 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
7 technology, tokens, and tokenization;

8 (3) disseminate research and information per-
9 taining to the use of, and marketplace for,
10 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
11 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
12 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
13 kens, and tokenization;

14 (4) develop standardized terminology for, and
15 promote common understanding of, blockchain tech-
16 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
17 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
18 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

19 (5) ensure the best practices described in sub-
20 section (c) facilitate the ease of use of blockchain
21 technology or other distributed ledger technology,
22 applications built on blockchain technology or other
23 distributed ledger technology, tokens, and
24 tokenization;

1 (6) support open-source infrastructure, data
2 management, and authentication activities with re-
3 spect to blockchain technology or other distributed
4 ledger technology, applications built on blockchain
5 technology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
6 kens, and tokenization; and

7 (7) consider the needs and interests of both the
8 private and public sector, including small businesses
9 and Federal, State, and local governments.

10 (e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
11 tion may be construed to—

12 (1) require a private entity to share information
13 with the Secretary;

14 (2) require a private entity to request assist-
15 ance from the Secretary;

16 (3) require a private entity to implement any
17 measure or recommendation suggested by the Sec-
18 retary in response to a request by the private entity;
19 or

20 (4) require the adoption of the best practices
21 described in subsection (c).

22 (f) CONSULTATION.—In implementing this section,
23 the Secretary may, as appropriate, consult with the heads
24 of relevant Federal agencies.

1 (g) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The Blockchain
2 Deployment Program established pursuant to subsection
3 (b)(3) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

6 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
8 shall make public on the website of the Department of
9 Commerce and submit to the Committee on Energy and
10 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
12 Senate a report that includes—

13 (1) a description of the activities of the Sec-
14 retary under this Act during the preceding year;

15 (2) any recommendations by the Secretary for
16 additional legislation to strengthen the competitive-
17 ness of the United States with respect to blockchain
18 technology or other distributed ledger technology,
19 applications built on blockchain technology or other
20 distributed ledger technology, tokens, and
21 tokenization; and

22 (3) a description of any emerging risks and
23 long-term trends with respect to blockchain tech-
24 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-

1 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
2 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization.

Passed the House of Representatives May 15, 2024.

Attest:

Clerk.

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