

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1578

To require reports on the adoption of cryptocurrency as legal tender in  
El Salvador.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2023

Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To require reports on the adoption of cryptocurrency as  
legal tender in El Salvador.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Accountability for  
5 Cryptocurrency in El Salvador Act” or the “ACES Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORTS ON ADOPTION OF CRYPTOCURRENCY AS**  
7 **LEGAL TENDER IN EL SALVADOR.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the  
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State  
10 and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly submit to

1 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the  
2 adoption by the Government of El Salvador of a  
3 cryptocurrency as legal tender.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection  
5 (a) shall include the following:

6 (1) A description of the process followed by the  
7 Government of El Salvador to develop and enact the  
8 Bitcoin Law (Legislative Decree No. 57, Official  
9 Record No. 110, Volume 431, enacted June 9,  
10 2021), which provides the cryptocurrency, Bitcoin,  
11 with legal tender status in El Salvador.

12 (2) An assessment of—

13 (A) potential gaps in the Anti-Money  
14 Laundering/Combatting the Financing of Ter-  
15 rorism (AML/CFT) framework in El Salvador,  
16 and illicit finance risks associated with virtual  
17 assets in El Salvador, including El Salvador’s  
18 adoption of Bitcoin as legal tender;

19 (B) the impact on individuals and busi-  
20 nesses of requiring tender of Bitcoin; and

21 (C) the impact of such adoption of a  
22 cryptocurrency on—

23 (i) the macroeconomic stability and  
24 public finances of El Salvador, including  
25 taxation;

1 (ii) the rule of law and democratic  
2 governance in El Salvador;

3 (iii) the unbanked population in El  
4 Salvador;

5 (iv) the flow of remittances from the  
6 United States to El Salvador;

7 (v) El Salvador's relations with multi-  
8 lateral financial institutions, such as the  
9 International Monetary Fund and the  
10 World Bank;

11 (vi) bilateral and international efforts  
12 to combat transnational illicit activities;  
13 and

14 (vii) El Salvador's bilateral economic  
15 and commercial relationship with the  
16 United States and the potential for re-  
17 duced use by El Salvador of the United  
18 States dollar.

19 (3) A description of the internet infrastructure  
20 of El Salvador and an assessment of—

21 (A) the degree to which cryptocurrency is  
22 used in El Salvador;

23 (B) matters relating to chain of custody  
24 and the potential for hacking and cybertheft of  
25 cryptocurrency; and

1           (C) access to transparent and affordable  
2 internet and digital infrastructure among the  
3 unbanked population of El Salvador.

4       (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)  
5 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include  
6 a classified annex.

7       (d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-  
8 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-  
9 tees of Congress” means—

10           (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
11 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-  
12 fairs of the Senate; and

13           (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
14 Committee on Financial Services of the House of  
15 Representatives.

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