

**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.

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## 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

1 Blockchain Working Group, as the Sec-  
 2 retary considers appropriate to ensure rep-  
 3 resentation of a cross-section of Federal  
 4 agencies that could use, or benefit from,  
 5 blockchain technology.

6 (ii) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

7 The head of each Federal agency des-  
 8 ignated under clause (i) shall appoint an  
 9 officer or employee of the Federal agency  
 10 to serve as a member of the Blockchain  
 11 Working Group.

12 (B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERN-  
 13 MENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

14 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
 15 appoint representatives of nongovern-  
 16 mental stakeholders with respect to  
 17 blockchain technology to serve as members  
 18 of the Blockchain Working Group.

19 (ii) REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN  
 20 STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED.—The members  
 21 of the Blockchain Working Group ap-  
 22 pointed under clause (i) shall include rep-  
 23 resentatives of—

24 (I) *representatives of* information  
 25 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

1 Working Group shall submit to Congress a report  
2 that contains—

3 (A) a recommended definition of the dis-  
4 tributed ledger technology commonly known as  
5 “blockchain technology”; and

6 (B) recommendations for—

7 (i) a study to be conducted by the As-  
8 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-  
9 munications and Information, in coordina-  
10 tion with the Federal Communications  
11 Commission, on the impact of blockchain  
12 technology on electromagnetic spectrum  
13 policy;

14 (ii) a study to examine a range of po-  
15 tential applications, including nonfinancial  
16 applications, for blockchain technology;  
17 and

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

20 (2) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN  
21 NIST INTERNAL REPORT 8202.—In making rec-  
22 ommendations under paragraph (1), the Blockchain  
23 Working Group may consider any recommendations  
24 contained in National Institute of Standards and  
25 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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1<sup>ST</sup> Session

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