

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1361

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. GUTHRIE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blockchain Promotion
5 Act of 2019”.

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

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Commerce shall establish within the Department of Com-
6 merce a working group to be known as the “Blockchain
7 Working Group”.

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Blockchain Working
10 Group shall be composed of a number of members
11 to be determined by the Secretary, to be appointed
12 in accordance with paragraph (2).

13 (2) APPOINTMENT.—

14 (A) REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL
15 AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall designate Fed-
16 eral agencies to be represented on the Block-
17 chain Working Group, as the Secretary con-
18 siders appropriate to ensure representation of a
19 cross-section of Federal agencies that could use
20 or benefit from blockchain technology. The head
21 of each agency so designated shall appoint an
22 officer or employee of such agency to serve as
23 a member of the Blockchain Working Group.

24 (B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERN-
25 MENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 appoint representatives of nongovern-
3 mental stakeholders with respect to block-
4 chain technology to serve as members of
5 the Blockchain Working Group.

6 (ii) REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN
7 STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED.—The members
8 of the Blockchain Working Group ap-
9 pointed under clause (i) shall include rep-
10 resentatives of the following:

11 (I) Information and communica-
12 tions technology manufacturers, sup-
13 pliers, software providers, service pro-
14 viders, and vendors.

15 (II) Subject matter experts rep-
16 resenting industrial sectors other than
17 the technology sector that the Sec-
18 retary determines can benefit from
19 blockchain technology.

20 (III) Small, medium, and large
21 businesses.

22 (IV) Individuals and institutions
23 engaged in academic research relating
24 to blockchain technology.

1 (V) Nonprofit organizations and
2 consumer advocacy groups engaged in
3 activities relating to blockchain tech-
4 nology.

5 (VI) Rural and urban stake-
6 holders.

7 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Block-
10 chain Working Group shall submit to Congress a re-
11 port that contains—

12 (A) a recommended definition of the dis-
13 tributed ledger technology commonly referred to
14 as “blockchain technology”; and

15 (B) recommendations for—

16 (i) a study to be conducted by the As-
17 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-
18 munications and Information, in coordina-
19 tion with the Federal Communications
20 Commission, on the impact of blockchain
21 technology on electromagnetic spectrum
22 policy;

23 (ii) a study that examines a range of
24 potential applications, including non-finan-

1 cial applications, for blockchain technology;
2 and
3 (iii) opportunities within Federal
4 agencies to use blockchain technology.

5 (2) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN
6 DRAFT NIST REPORT.—In making recommendations
7 under paragraph (1), the Blockchain Working Group
8 may consider any recommendations contained in the
9 draft of National Institute of Standards and Tech-
10 nology Internal Report 8202, entitled “Blockchain
11 Technology Overview”, that was released in January
12 2018.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
15 agency” means an agency, as defined in section 551
16 of title 5, United States Code.

17 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Commerce.

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