

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 553

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

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## 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”.

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

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

4           (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
5           of Commerce.

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

10          (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Blockchain Working  
12           Group shall be composed of members, the number of  
13           whom shall be determined by the Secretary, and who  
14           shall be appointed in accordance with paragraph (2).

15           (2) APPOINTMENT.—

16           (A) REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL  
17           AGENCIES.—

18           (i) DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL AGEN-  
19           CIES.—The Secretary shall designate Fed-  
20           eral agencies to be represented in the  
21           Blockchain Working Group, as the Sec-  
22           retary considers appropriate to ensure rep-  
23           resentation of a cross-section of Federal  
24           agencies that could use, or benefit from,  
25           blockchain technology.

1 (ii) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

2 The head of each Federal agency des-  
3 ignated under clause (i) shall appoint an  
4 officer or employee of the Federal agency  
5 to serve as a member of the Blockchain  
6 Working Group.

7 (B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERN-  
8 MENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
10 appoint representatives of nongovern-  
11 mental stakeholders with respect to  
12 blockchain technology to serve as members  
13 of the Blockchain Working Group.

14 (ii) REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN  
15 STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED.—The members  
16 of the Blockchain Working Group ap-  
17 pointed under clause (i) shall include rep-  
18 resentatives of—

19 (I) information and communica-  
20 tions technology manufacturers, sup-  
21 pliers, software providers, service pro-  
22 viders, and vendors;

23 (II) subject matter experts rep-  
24 resenting industrial sectors, other  
25 than the technology sector, that the

1 Secretary determines could use, or  
2 benefit from, blockchain technology;

3 (III) small, medium, and large  
4 businesses;

5 (IV) individuals and institutions  
6 engaged in academic research relating  
7 to blockchain technology;

8 (V) nonprofit organizations and  
9 consumer advocacy groups engaged in  
10 activities relating to blockchain tech-  
11 nology; and

12 (VI) rural and urban stake-  
13 holders.

14 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Blockchain  
17 Working Group shall submit to Congress a report  
18 that contains—

19 (A) a recommended definition of the dis-  
20 tributed ledger technology commonly known as  
21 “blockchain technology”; and

22 (B) recommendations for—

23 (i) a study to be conducted by the As-  
24 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-  
25 munications and Information, in coordina-

1                   tion with the Federal Communications  
2                   Commission, on the impact of blockchain  
3                   technology on electromagnetic spectrum  
4                   policy;

5                   (ii) a study to examine a range of po-  
6                   tential applications, including nonfinancial  
7                   applications, for blockchain technology;  
8                   and

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

11                  (2) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN  
12                  NIST INTERNAL REPORT 8202.—In making rec-  
13                  ommendations under paragraph (1), the Blockchain  
14                  Working Group may consider any recommendations  
15                  contained in National Institute of Standards and  
16                  Technology Internal Report 8202, entitled  
17                  “Blockchain Technology Overview” and published in  
18                  October 2018.

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