

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6572

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2023

Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Deploying American
5 Blockchains Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

8 (A) shared across a network of computers
9 to create a ledger of verified information among
10 network participants;

11 (B) linked using cryptography to maintain
12 the integrity of the ledger and to execute other
13 functions; and

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

18 (2) **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.**—The
19 term “non-governmental organization” means orga-
20 nizations described in section 2155(b) of title 19 of
21 United States Code, excluding non-Federal govern-
22 ments.

23 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of Commerce.

25 (4) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of
26 the several States, the District of Columbia, each

1 commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United
2 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

3 (5) **TOKEN.**—The term “token” means a
4 transferrable, digital representation of information
5 recorded on blockchain technology or other distrib-
6 uted ledger technology.

7 (6) **TOKENIZATION.**—The term “tokenization”
8 means the process of creating a token.

9 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LEADERSHIP ON**
10 **BLOCKCHAIN.**

11 (a) **FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary
12 shall serve as the principal advisor to the President for
13 policy pertaining to the deployment, use, application, and
14 competitiveness of blockchain technology or other distrib-
15 uted ledger technology, applications built on blockchain
16 technology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens,
17 and tokenization.

18 (b) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall take actions
19 necessary and appropriate to promote the competitiveness
20 of the United States related to the deployment, use, appli-
21 cation, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or
22 other distributed ledger technology, applications built on
23 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-
24 nology, tokens, and tokenization including by—

1 (1) establishing best practices described in sub-
2 section (3) to assist the private sector, the public
3 sector, and public-private partnerships in the deploy-
4 ment of technologies needed to advance the capabili-
5 ties of blockchain technology or other distributed
6 ledger technology, applications built on blockchain
7 technology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
8 kens, and tokenization;

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

20 (3) supporting and promoting the stability,
21 maintenance, improvement, and security of
22 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
23 technology, applications built on blockchain tech-
24 nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
25 kens, and tokenization;

1 (4) helping to promote the leadership of the
2 United States with respect to the use of blockchain
3 technology or other distributed ledger technology,
4 applications built on blockchain technology or other
5 distributed ledger technology, tokens, and
6 tokenization;

7 (5) promoting the national security and eco-
8 nomic security of the United States with respect to
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;

13 (6) supporting engagement with the public to
14 promote best practices described in subsection (3);

15 (7) considering policies or programs to encour-
16 age and improve coordination among Federal agen-
17 cies with respect to the deployment 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 (8) 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 (9) support the coordination of current and fu-
5 ture activities of the Federal government related to
6 the security of blockchain technology and other dis-
7 tributed technologies, applications built on
8 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
9 technology, tokens, and tokenization;

10 (10) establishing a Blockchain Deployment Pro-
11 gram to support American leadership in the deploy-
12 ment and use of blockchain technology and other
13 distributed ledger technology, applications built on
14 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
15 technology, tokens, and tokenization; and

16 (11) establishing advisory committees, not later
17 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
18 this Act, to support the adoption of blockchain tech-
19 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
20 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
21 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization,
22 membership of which shall include—

23 (A) the Secretary;

24 (B) representatives of Federal agencies (as
25 determined necessary by the Secretary); and

1 (C) nongovernmental stakeholders with ex-
2 pertise related to blockchain technology or other
3 distributed ledger technology, including rep-
4 resentatives of—

5 (i) blockchain technology or other dis-
6 tributed ledger technology infrastructure
7 operators, suppliers, service providers, and
8 vendors;

9 (ii) application developers building on
10 blockchain technology or other distributed
11 ledger technology;

12 (iii) developers and organizations sup-
13 porting the advancement and deployment
14 of public blockchain technology or other
15 distributed ledger technology;

16 (iv) subject matter experts rep-
17 resenting industrial sectors that can ben-
18 efit from blockchain technology or other
19 distributed ledger technology;

20 (v) small, medium, and large busi-
21 nesses;

22 (vi) think tanks and academia;

23 (vii) nonprofit organizations and con-
24 sumer groups;

25 (viii) cybersecurity experts;

- 1 (ix) rural stakeholders;
2 (x) Non-governmental organizations;
3 (xi) artists and the content creator
4 community; and
5 (xii) other stakeholders with relevant
6 expertise (as determined necessary by the
7 Secretary).

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

14 (1) support interoperability 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 (2) support operations, including hashing and
19 key storage and security systems, that form the
20 foundation of blockchain technology or other distrib-
21 uted ledger technology, applications built on
22 blockchain technology or other distributed ledger
23 technology, tokens, and tokenization;

24 (3) reduce cybersecurity and other risks that
25 may compromise blockchain technology or other dis-

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

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

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

17 (d) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out
18 subsection (3), the Secretary shall—

19 (1) consult closely and regularly with stake-
20 holders, including private sector individuals and enti-
21 ties, and incorporate industry expertise;

22 (2) collaborate with private sector stakeholders
23 to identify prioritized, flexible, repeatable, perform-
24 ance-based, and cost-effective approaches to the de-
25 ployment of blockchain technology or other distrib-

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

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

10 (4) develop standardized terminology, and pro-
11 mote common understanding of blockchain tech-
12 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
13 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
14 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;

15 (5) ensure the best practices described in para-
16 graph (3) facilitate the ease of use of blockchain
17 technology or other distributed ledger technology,
18 applications built on blockchain technology or other
19 distributed ledger technology, tokens, and
20 tokenization;

21 (6) support open-source infrastructure, data
22 management, and authentication activities with re-
23 spect to blockchain technology or other distributed
24 ledger technology, applications built on blockchain

1 technology or other distributed ledger technology, to-
2 kens, and tokenization; and

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

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

8 (1) require a private entity to share information
9 with the Secretary;

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

12 (3) require a private entity to implement any
13 measure or recommendation suggested by the Sec-
14 retary in response to a request by the private entity;
15 or

16 (4) require the adoption of the best practices
17 described in paragraph (3).

18 (f) CONSULTATION.—In implementing this section,
19 the Secretary may, as appropriate, consult with the heads
20 of relevant Federal agencies.

21 (g) TERMINATION.—The Blockchain Deployment
22 Program established subsection (J) by shall terminate on
23 the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment
24 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

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

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

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

18 (3) a description of any emerging risks and
19 long-term trends with respect to blockchain tech-
20 nology or other distributed ledger technology, appli-
21 cations built on blockchain technology or other dis-
22 tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization.

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