

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to blockchain technology; providing  
 3           legislative findings; establishing the Florida  
 4           Blockchain Task Force in the Department of Financial  
 5           Services; providing for membership and duties of the  
 6           task force; requiring the task force to submit a  
 7           report to the Governor and the Legislature and make  
 8           presentations; requiring the department to provide  
 9           support staff and other assistance to the task force;  
 10          providing for termination of the task force; providing  
 11          an effective date.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15           Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

16           (a) Blockchain technology and distributed ledger  
 17 technology allow the secure recording of transactions through  
 18 cryptographic algorithms and distributed record sharing, and  
 19 such technology has reached a point where the opportunities for  
 20 efficiency, cost savings, and cybersecurity deserve study.

21           (b) Blockchain technology is a promising way to facilitate  
 22 more efficient government service delivery models and economies  
 23 of scale, including facilitating safe paperless transactions and  
 24 recordkeeping that are nearly impervious to cyberattacks and  
 25 data destruction.

26        (c) Blockchain technology can reduce the prevalence of  
27 disparate government computer systems, databases, and custom-  
28 built software interfaces; reduce costs associated with  
29 maintenance and implementation; streamline information sharing;  
30 and allow more areas of the state to electronically participate  
31 in government services.

32        (d) Nations, other states, and municipalities across the  
33 world are studying and implementing government reforms that  
34 bolster trust and reduce bureaucracy through verifiable open  
35 source blockchain technology in a variety of areas, including,  
36 but not limited to, medical and health records, land records,  
37 banking, tax and fee payments, smart contracts, professional  
38 accrediting, and property auctions.

39        (e) It is in the public interest to establish a Florida  
40 Blockchain Task Force comprised of government and industry  
41 representatives to study the ways in which state, county, and  
42 municipal governments can benefit from a transition to a  
43 blockchain-based system for recordkeeping, security, and service  
44 delivery and to develop and submit recommendations to the  
45 Governor and the Legislature concerning the potential for  
46 implementation of blockchain-based systems that promote  
47 government efficiencies, better services for citizens, economic  
48 development, and safer cyber-secure interaction between  
49 government and the public.

50        (2) The Florida Blockchain Task Force, a task force as

51 defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is established within the  
52 Department of Financial Services to explore and develop a master  
53 plan for fostering the expansion of the blockchain industry in  
54 the state, to recommend policies and state investments to help  
55 make this state a leader in blockchain technology, and to issue  
56 a report to the Legislature. The task force shall study if and  
57 how state, county, and municipal governments can benefit from a  
58 transition to a blockchain-based system for recordkeeping, data  
59 security, financial transactions, and service delivery and to  
60 identify ways to improve government interaction with businesses  
61 and the public.

62 (a) The master plan shall:

63 1. Identify the economic growth and development  
64 opportunities presented by blockchain technology.

65 2. Assess the existing blockchain industry in the state.

66 3. Identify innovative and successful blockchain  
67 applications currently used by industry and other governments to  
68 determine viability for state applications.

69 4. Review workforce needs and academic programs required  
70 to build blockchain technology expertise across all relevant  
71 industries.

72 5. Make recommendations to the Governor and the  
73 Legislature that will promote innovation and economic growth by  
74 reducing barriers to and expedite the expansion of the state's  
75 blockchain industry.

76        (b) The task force shall consist of 24 members. Membership  
77 shall be as follows:

78        1. The Secretary of Management Services, or his or her  
79 designee.

80        2. The Secretary of State, or his or her designee.

81        3. The executive director of the Department of Revenue, or  
82 his or her designee.

83        4. The executive director of the Department of Highway  
84 Safety and Motor Vehicles, or his or her designee.

85        5. The executive director of the Department of Law  
86 Enforcement, or his or her designee.

87        6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or  
88 her designee.

89        7. The Secretary of Business and Professional Regulation,  
90 or his or her designee.

91        8. One currently serving county tax collector, appointed  
92 by the Governor.

93        9. One currently serving county property appraiser,  
94 appointed by the Governor.

95        10. One currently serving county supervisor of elections,  
96 appointed by the Governor.

97        11. One currently serving county clerk of the courts,  
98 appointed by the Governor.

99        12. Two members from the private sector with knowledge and  
100 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the Governor.

101        13. Three members from the private sector with knowledge  
102 and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the Chief  
103 Financial Officer.

104        14. Three members from the private sector with knowledge  
105 and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the  
106 President of the Senate.

107        15. Three members from the private sector with knowledge  
108 and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the  
109 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

110        16. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President  
111 of the Senate.

112        17. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed  
113 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

114        (c) Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, a  
115 majority of the members of the task force must be appointed and  
116 the task force shall hold its first meeting. The task force  
117 shall elect one of its members to serve as chair. Members of the  
118 task force shall serve for the duration of the existence of the  
119 task force. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled in the same  
120 manner as the original appointment. Task force members shall  
121 serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for  
122 per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida  
123 Statutes.

124        (d) The task force shall study blockchain technology,  
125 including, but not limited to, the following:

126 1. Opportunities and risks associated with using  
127 blockchain and distributed ledger technology for state and local  
128 government.

129 2. Different types of blockchains, both public and  
130 private, and different consensus algorithms.

131 3. Projects and cases currently under development in other  
132 states and local governments, and how these cases could be  
133 applied in this state.

134 4. Ways the Legislature can modify general law to support  
135 secure, paperless recordkeeping, increase cybersecurity, improve  
136 interactions with citizens, and encourage blockchain innovation  
137 for businesses in the state.

138 5. Identifying potential economic incentives for companies  
139 investing in blockchain technologies in collaboration with the  
140 state.

141 6. Recommending projects for potential blockchain  
142 solutions, including, but not limited to, use cases for state  
143 agencies that would improve services for citizens or businesses.

144 7. Identifying the technical skills necessary to develop  
145 blockchain technology and ensuring that instruction in such  
146 skills is available at secondary and postsecondary educational  
147 institutions in this state.

148 (3) The task force shall submit a report to the Governor,  
149 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
150 Representatives and present its findings to the appropriate

151 legislative committees in each house of the Legislature within  
152 180 days after the initial meeting of the task force. The report  
153 must include:

154 1. A general description of the costs and benefits of  
155 state and local government agencies using blockchain technology.

156 2. Recommendations concerning the feasibility of  
157 implementing blockchain technology in the state and the best  
158 approach to finance the cost of implementation.

159 3. Recommendations for specific implementations to be  
160 developed by relevant state agencies.

161 4. Any draft legislation the task force deems appropriate  
162 to implement such blockchain technologies.

163 5. Identification of one pilot project that may be  
164 implemented in the state.

165 6. Any other information deemed relevant by the task  
166 force.

167 (4) The task force is entitled to the assistance and  
168 services of any state agency, board, bureau, or commission as  
169 necessary and available for the purposes of this act.

170 (5) The Department of Financial Services shall provide  
171 support staff for the task force and any relevant studies, data,  
172 and materials in its possession to assist the task force in the  
173 performance of its duties.

174 (6) The task force shall terminate upon submission of the  
175 report and the presentation of findings.

176 |       Section 2.   This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. |