

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.

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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 12 members. Membership
77 shall be as follows:

78 1. Three agency heads or executive directors of cabinet
79 agencies, or their designees, appointed by the Governor.

80 2. Four members from the public or private sector with
81 knowledge and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by
82 the Governor.

83 3. Three members from the public or private sector with
84 knowledge and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by
85 the Chief Financial Officer.

86 4. One member from the private sector with knowledge and
87 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the President
88 of the Senate.

89 5. One member from the private sector with knowledge and
90 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the Speaker of
91 the House of Representatives.

92 (c) Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, a
93 majority of the members of the task force must be appointed and
94 the task force shall hold its first meeting. The task force
95 shall elect one of its members to serve as chair. Members of the
96 task force shall serve for the duration of the existence of the
97 task force. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled in the same
98 manner as the original appointment. Task force members shall
99 serve without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement
100 for per diem or travel expenses.

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

103 1. Opportunities and risks associated with using
104 blockchain and distributed ledger technology for state and local
105 government.

106 2. Different types of blockchains, both public and
107 private, and different consensus algorithms.

108 3. Projects and cases currently under development in other
109 states and local governments, and how these cases could be
110 applied in this state.

111 4. Ways the Legislature can modify general law to support
112 secure, paperless recordkeeping, increase cybersecurity, improve
113 interactions with citizens, and encourage blockchain innovation
114 for businesses in the state.

115 5. Identifying potential economic incentives for companies
116 investing in blockchain technologies in collaboration with the
117 state.

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

121 7. Identifying the technical skills necessary to develop
122 blockchain technology and ensuring that instruction in such
123 skills is available at secondary and postsecondary educational
124 institutions in this state.

125 (3) The task force shall submit a report to the Governor,

126 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
127 Representatives and present its findings to the appropriate
128 legislative committees in each house of the Legislature within
129 180 days after the initial meeting of the task force. The report
130 must include:

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

133 2. Recommendations concerning the feasibility of
134 implementing blockchain technology in the state and the best
135 approach to finance the cost of implementation.

136 3. Recommendations for specific implementations to be
137 developed by relevant state agencies.

138 4. Any draft legislation the task force deems appropriate
139 to implement such blockchain technologies.

140 5. Identification of one pilot project that may be
141 implemented in the state.

142 6. Any other information deemed relevant by the task
143 force.

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

147 (5) The Department of Financial Services shall provide
148 support staff for the task force and any relevant studies, data,
149 and materials in its possession to assist the task force in the
150 performance of its duties.

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

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