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H. R. 6572

[Report No. 118-]

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

DECEMBER --, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 4, 2023]

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”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY OR OTHER DIS-*
9 *TRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY.—The term*
10 *“blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
11 *technology” means a distributed digital database*
12 *where data is—*

13 (A) *shared across a network of computers to*
14 *create a ledger of verified information among*
15 *network participants;*

16 (B) *linked using cryptography to maintain*
17 *the integrity of the ledger and to execute other*
18 *functions; and*

19 (C) *distributed among network participants*
20 *in an automated fashion to concurrently update*
21 *network participants on the state of the ledger*
22 *and other functions.*

23 (2) *COVERED NONGOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTA-*
24 *TIVES.—The term “covered nongovernmental rep-*
25 *resentatives” means representatives as specified in the*

1 **(b) ACTIVITIES.**—*The Secretary shall take actions nec-*
2 *essary and appropriate to support the leadership of the*
3 *United States with respect to the deployment, use, applica-*
4 *tion, and competitiveness of blockchain technology or other*
5 *distributed ledger technology, applications built on*
6 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger technology,*
7 *tokens, and tokenization, including by—*

8 (1) *developing policies and recommendations on*
9 *issues and risks related to the deployment, use, appli-*
10 *cation, and competitiveness of blockchain technology*
11 *or other distributed ledger technology, applications*
12 *built on blockchain technology or other distributed*
13 *ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, including*
14 *the issues of decentralized identity, cybersecurity, key*
15 *storage and security systems, artificial intelligence,*
16 *fraud reduction, regulatory compliance, e-commerce,*
17 *health care applications, and supply chain resiliency;*

18 (2) *supporting and promoting the stability,*
19 *maintenance, improvement, and security of*
20 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-*
21 *nology, applications built on blockchain technology or*
22 *other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and*
23 *tokenization;*

24 (3) *helping to promote the leadership of the*
25 *United States with respect to the deployment, use, ap-*

1 *plication, and competitiveness of blockchain tech-*
2 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, applica-*
3 *tions built on blockchain technology or other distrib-*
4 *uted ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization*
5 *through the establishment of a Blockchain Deployment*
6 *Program in the Department of Commerce;*

7 *(4) promoting the national security and eco-*
8 *nomie security of the United States with respect to*
9 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-*
10 *nology, applications built on blockchain technology or*
11 *other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and*
12 *tokenization;*

13 *(5) supporting engagement with the public to*
14 *promote the best practices described in subsection (c);*

15 *(6) considering policies and programs to encour-*
16 *age and improve coordination among Federal agen-*
17 *cies with respect to the deployment of blockchain tech-*
18 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, applica-*
19 *tions built on blockchain technology or other distrib-*
20 *uted ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;*

21 *(7) examining—*

22 *(A) how Federal agencies can benefit from*
23 *utilizing blockchain technology or other distrib-*
24 *uted ledger technology, applications built on*

1 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
2 *technology, tokens, and tokenization;*

3 *(B) the current use by Federal agencies of*
4 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
5 *technology, applications built on blockchain tech-*
6 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-*
7 *kens, and tokenization;*

8 *(C) the current and future preparedness*
9 *and ability of Federal agencies to adopt*
10 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
11 *technology, applications built on blockchain tech-*
12 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, to-*
13 *kens, 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 *(8) supporting coordination of the activities of*
5 *the Federal Government related to the security of*
6 *blockchain technology and other distributed ledger*
7 *technology, applications built on blockchain tech-*
8 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens,*
9 *and tokenization; and*

10 *(9) not later than 180 days after the date of the*
11 *enactment of this Act, establishing advisory commit-*
12 *tees to support the adoption of blockchain technology*
13 *or other distributed ledger technology, applications*
14 *built on blockchain technology or other distributed*
15 *ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization, the mem-*
16 *bership of which shall include—*

17 *(A) the Secretary;*

18 *(B) representatives of Federal agencies (as*
19 *determined necessary by the Secretary); and*

20 *(C) nongovernmental stakeholders with ex-*
21 *pertise related to blockchain technology or other*
22 *distributed ledger technology, including—*

23 *(i) blockchain technology or other dis-*
24 *tributed ledger technology infrastructure op-*

1 *erators, suppliers, service providers, and*
2 *vendors;*

3 *(ii) application developers building on*
4 *blockchain technology or other distributed*
5 *ledger technology;*

6 *(iii) developers and organizations sup-*
7 *porting the advancement and deployment of*
8 *public blockchain technology or other dis-*
9 *tributed ledger technology;*

10 *(iv) subject matter experts representing*
11 *industrial sectors that can benefit from*
12 *blockchain technology or other distributed*
13 *ledger technology;*

14 *(v) small, medium, and large busi-*
15 *nesses;*

16 *(vi) think tanks and academia;*

17 *(vii) nonprofit organizations and con-*
18 *sumer groups;*

19 *(viii) cybersecurity experts;*

20 *(ix) rural stakeholders;*

21 *(x) covered nongovernmental represent-*
22 *atives;*

23 *(xi) artists and the content creator*
24 *community; and*

1 *(xii) other stakeholders with relevant*
2 *expertise (as determined necessary by the*
3 *Secretary).*

4 *(c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall, on an on-*
5 *going basis, facilitate and support the development and dis-*
6 *semination of best practices with respect to blockchain tech-*
7 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, applications*
8 *built on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
9 *technology, tokens, and tokenization that—*

10 *(1) support the private sector, the public sector,*
11 *and public-private partnerships in the deployment of*
12 *technologies needed to advance the capabilities of*
13 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-*
14 *nology, applications built on blockchain technology or*
15 *other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and*
16 *tokenization;*

17 *(2) support the interoperability of blockchain*
18 *technology or other distributed ledger technology, ap-*
19 *plications built on blockchain technology or other dis-*
20 *tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;*

21 *(3) support operations, including hashing and*
22 *key storage and security systems, that form the foun-*
23 *dation of blockchain technology or other distributed*
24 *ledger technology, applications built on blockchain*

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

3 (4) *reduce cybersecurity and other risks that*
4 *may compromise blockchain technology or other dis-*
5 *tributed ledger technology, applications built on*
6 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-*
7 *nology, tokens, and tokenization;*

8 (5) *reduce uncertainty and risks in the use of*
9 *blockchain technology or other distributed ledger tech-*
10 *nology, applications built on blockchain technology or*
11 *other distributed ledger technology, tokens, and*
12 *tokenization; and*

13 (6) *quantify the value and potential cost savings*
14 *associated with adoption of blockchain technology or*
15 *other distributed ledger technology, applications built*
16 *on blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
17 *technology, tokens, and tokenization, including*
18 *through comparative analyses of competing and exist-*
19 *ing technologies within specific industry applications.*

20 (d) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out*
21 *this section, the Secretary shall—*

22 (1) *consult closely and regularly with stake-*
23 *holders, including private sector individuals and enti-*
24 *ties, and incorporate industry expertise;*

1 (2) *collaborate with private sector stakeholders to*
2 *identify prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-*
3 *based, and cost-effective approaches to the deployment*
4 *of blockchain technology or other distributed ledger*
5 *technology, applications built on blockchain tech-*
6 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, tokens,*
7 *and tokenization;*

8 (3) *disseminate research and information per-*
9 *taining to the use of, and marketplace for, blockchain*
10 *technology or other distributed ledger technology, ap-*
11 *plications built on blockchain technology or other dis-*
12 *tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;*

13 (4) *develop standardized terminology for, and*
14 *promote common understanding of, blockchain tech-*
15 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, applica-*
16 *tions built on blockchain technology or other distrib-*
17 *uted ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;*

18 (5) *ensure the best practices described in sub-*
19 *section (c) facilitate the ease of use of blockchain tech-*
20 *nology or other distributed ledger technology, applica-*
21 *tions built on blockchain technology or other distrib-*
22 *uted ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;*

23 (6) *support open-source infrastructure, data*
24 *management, and authentication activities with re-*
25 *spect to blockchain technology or other distributed*

1 *ledger technology, applications built on blockchain*
2 *technology or other distributed ledger technology, to-*
3 *kens, and tokenization; and*

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

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

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

11 *(2) require a private entity to request assistance*
12 *from the Secretary;*

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

17 *(4) require the adoption of the best practices de-*
18 *scribed in subsection (c).*

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

22 *(g) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The Blockchain De-*
23 *ployment Program established pursuant to subsection (b)(3)*
24 *shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date*
25 *of the enactment of this Act.*

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

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

9 *(1) a description of the activities of the Secretary*
10 *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, ap-*
15 *plications built on blockchain technology or other dis-*
16 *tributed ledger technology, tokens, and tokenization;*
17 *and*

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