
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5544

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Environment, Energy & Technology (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Dozier, Frockt, Hasegawa, Mullet, Rolfes, Short, Wagoner, Wellman, and L. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the Washington blockchain work
2 group; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
5 appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington blockchain
6 work group is established. The purpose of the work group is to
7 examine various potential applications for blockchain technology
8 including, but not limited to, applications in computing, banking and
9 other financial services, the real estate transaction process, health
10 care, supply chain management, higher education, and public
11 recordkeeping.

12 (2) The work group is composed of the following members:

13 (a) One senator from each of the two largest caucuses of the
14 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

15 (b) One representative from each of the two largest caucuses of
16 the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
17 of representatives;

18 (c) The secretary of state or the secretary of state's designee;

19 (d) The director of the department of commerce or the director's
20 designee;

1 (e) The director of the department of financial institutions or
2 the director's designee;

3 (f) The director of Washington technology solutions, the
4 consolidated technology services agency, or the director's designee;

5 (g) The director of the department of agriculture or the
6 director's designee;

7 (h) The director of the health care authority or the director's
8 designee;

9 (i) An individual representing a Washington-based technology
10 trade association for the full cross-section of the technology
11 sector;

12 (j) An individual representing a trade association for financial
13 services companies that do business in Washington;

14 (k) An individual representing a trade association for title
15 insurance companies that do business in Washington;

16 (l) An individual representing a trade association for health
17 care companies that do business in Washington;

18 (m) An individual representing an association for county
19 government officials in Washington;

20 (n) An individual representing a trade association for
21 Washington-based agriculture;

22 (o) An individual representing a trade association for property
23 and casualty insurance companies that do business in Washington;

24 (p) An individual representing a federally recognized tribe
25 located in Washington;

26 (q) An individual representing an environmental advocacy
27 organization with expertise in energy policy;

28 (r) An individual representing an environmental advocacy
29 organization with expertise in sustainability; and

30 (s) An individual representing an association for public utility
31 districts in Washington.

32 (3) The individuals appointed under subsection (2)(i) through (s)
33 of this section must be appointed by the governor.

34 (4) In addition to the members appointed to the work group under
35 subsection (2) of this section, individuals representing other
36 sectors may be invited by the chair, in consultation with the other
37 appointed members of the work group, to participate in an advisory
38 capacity in meetings of the work group. Individuals participating in
39 an advisory capacity under this subsection are not members of the
40 work group, may not vote, and are not subject to the appointment

1 process established in this section. There is no limit to the number
2 of individuals who may participate in work group meetings in an
3 advisory capacity under this subsection.

4 (5) A majority of the work group members constitutes a quorum. If
5 a member has not been designated for a position set forth in this
6 section, that position may not be counted for the purpose of
7 determining a quorum.

8 (6) The work group must hold its inaugural meeting by August 1,
9 2022. The work group must elect a chair from among its members at the
10 inaugural meeting. The election of the chair must be by a majority
11 vote of the work group members who are present at the inaugural
12 meeting. The chair of the work group is responsible for arranging
13 subsequent meetings and developing meeting agendas.

14 (7) Staff support for the work group, including arranging the
15 inaugural meeting of the work group and assisting the chair of the
16 work group in arranging subsequent meetings, must be provided by the
17 department of commerce.

18 (8) Legislative members of the work group may be reimbursed for
19 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
20 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
21 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
22 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
23 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

24 (9) The work group is a class one group under chapter 43.03 RCW.

25 (10) A public comment period must be provided at every meeting of
26 the work group.

27 (11) The work group must submit a report on potential uses and
28 impacts of blockchain, including impacts on existing industries,
29 utilities, demand for electricity, and demand for computer processing
30 capacity, and recommended policies that will facilitate the
31 development of blockchain applications in Washington to the governor
32 and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,
33 2023.

34 (12) This section expires January 1, 2024. The work group is
35 dissolved upon the expiration of this section.

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