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**SENATE BILL 5544**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Brown, Dozier, Frockt, Hasegawa, Mullet, Rolfes, Short, Wagoner, Wellman, and L. Wilson

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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 lieutenant governor or the lieutenant governor's  
19 designee;

20 (d) The director of the department of commerce or the director's  
21 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) An individual representing a Washington-based technology  
8 trade association for the full cross-section of the technology  
9 sector;

10 (i) An individual representing a trade association for financial  
11 services companies that do business in Washington;

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

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

16 (l) An individual representing an association for county  
17 government officials in Washington;

18 (m) An individual representing a trade association for  
19 Washington-based agriculture;

20 (n) An individual representing a trade association for property  
21 and casualty insurance companies that do business in Washington; and

22 (o) An individual representing an association for public utility  
23 districts in Washington.

24 (3) The individuals appointed under subsection (2)(h) through (o)  
25 of this section must be appointed by the governor.

26 (4) In addition to the members appointed to the work group under  
27 subsection (2) of this section, individuals representing other  
28 sectors may be invited by the chair, in consultation with the other  
29 appointed members of the work group, to participate in an advisory  
30 capacity in meetings of the work group. Individuals participating in  
31 an advisory capacity under this subsection are not members of the  
32 work group, may not vote, and are not subject to the appointment  
33 process established in this section. There is no limit to the number  
34 of individuals who may participate in work group meetings in an  
35 advisory capacity under this subsection.

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

1 (6) The work group must hold its inaugural meeting by August 1,  
2 2022. The work group must elect a chair from among its members at the  
3 inaugural meeting. The election of the chair must be by a majority  
4 vote of the work group members who are present at the inaugural  
5 meeting. The chair of the work group is responsible for arranging  
6 subsequent meetings and developing meeting agendas.

7 (7) Staff support for the work group, including arranging the  
8 inaugural meeting of the work group and assisting the chair of the  
9 work group in arranging subsequent meetings, must be provided by the  
10 office of the lieutenant governor.

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

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

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

20 (11) The work group must submit a report on recommended policies  
21 that will facilitate the development of blockchain applications in  
22 Washington to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
23 legislature by December 1, 2023.

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

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