

ESSB 5544 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Community & Economic Development

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/4/2022

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

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

14 (a) The director of the department of commerce or the director's
15 designee;

16 (b) An individual representing a federally recognized tribe
17 located in Washington;

18 (c) A cybersecurity expert with experience in blockchain
19 technology or its applications;

20 (d) A privacy expert with experience in blockchain technology or
21 its applications;

22 (e) An individual representing a Washington-based technology
23 trade association for the full cross section of the technology
24 sector;

25 (f) An individual from the Cascadia blockchain council;

26 (g) An individual from a higher education institution in the
27 field of blockchain;

28 (h) An individual representing a trade association for financial
29 services companies that do business in Washington;

30 (i) An individual representing a trade association for title
31 insurance companies that do business in Washington;

32 (j) An individual representing a trade association for health
33 care companies that do business in Washington;

1 (k) An individual representing an association for county
2 government officials in Washington;

3 (l) An individual representing a trade association for
4 Washington-based agriculture;

5 (m) An individual representing a trade association for property
6 and casualty insurance companies that do business in Washington;

7 (n) An individual representing a consumer advocacy organization;

8 (o) An individual representing a large company who has experience
9 working with blockchain applications;

10 (p) An individual representing a small company who has experience
11 working with blockchain applications;

12 (q) Two individuals representing the Washington state labor
13 council working in the fields impacted by blockchain technology or
14 its applications;

15 (r) Two individuals representing advocacy organizations that
16 represent individuals or protected classes of communities
17 historically impacted by surveillance technologies and bias in
18 technology-based systems including, but not limited to, African
19 American, Latino American, Native American, Pacific Islander
20 American, and Asian American communities, religious minorities,
21 protest and activist groups, and other vulnerable communities;

22 (s) An individual representing an environmental advocacy
23 organization with expertise in energy policy;

24 (t) An individual representing an environmental advocacy
25 organization with expertise in sustainability; and

26 (u) An individual representing an association for public utility
27 districts in Washington.

28 (3) The individuals listed in subsection (2)(b) through (u) of
29 this section must be designated by their organization or association
30 or the director of the department of commerce.

31 (4) The work group shall also include as members:

32 (a) One senator from each of the two largest caucuses of the
33 senate, appointed by the president of the senate; and

34 (b) One representative from each of the two largest caucuses of
35 the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
36 of representatives.

37 (5) In addition to the members listed in subsections (2) and (4)
38 of this section, the following individuals shall serve as ex officio
39 members of the work group: The director of the department of
40 financial institutions, or the director's designee; the director of

1 Washington technology solutions, the consolidated technology services
2 agency, or the director's designee; the director of the department of
3 agriculture, or the director's designee; the insurance commissioner,
4 or the insurance commissioner's designee; the director of the
5 department of ecology, or the director's designee; the state auditor,
6 or the state auditor's designee; the secretary of state, or the
7 secretary's designee; the director of the department of revenue, or
8 the director's designee; the director of the department of licensing,
9 or the director's designee; the director of the office of equity, or
10 the director's designee; and the director of the health care
11 authority, or the director's designee.

12 (6) In addition to the members of the work group under
13 subsections (2), (4), and (5) of this section, individuals
14 representing other sectors may be invited by the chair, in
15 consultation with the other appointed members of the work group, to
16 participate in an advisory capacity in meetings of the work group.
17 Individuals participating in an advisory capacity under this
18 subsection are not members of the work group, may not vote, and are
19 not subject to the appointment process established in this section.
20 There is no limit to the number of individuals who may participate in
21 work group meetings in an advisory capacity under this subsection.

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

26 (8) The work group shall hold its inaugural meeting by December
27 1, 2022. The work group shall elect a chair from among its members at
28 the inaugural meeting. The election of the chair must be by a
29 majority vote of the work group members who are present at the
30 inaugural meeting. The chair of the work group is responsible for
31 arranging subsequent meetings and developing meeting agendas.

32 (9) Staff support for the work group, including arranging the
33 inaugural meeting of the work group and assisting the chair of the
34 work group in arranging subsequent meetings, must be provided by the
35 department of commerce.

36 (10) Legislative members of the work group may be reimbursed for
37 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
38 members of the work group are not entitled to be reimbursed for
39 travel expenses if they are elected officials or are participating on
40 behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other organization.

1 Any reimbursement for other nonlegislative members is subject to
2 chapter 43.03 RCW.

3 (11) The work group is a class one group under chapter 43.03 RCW.

4 (12) A public comment period must be provided at every meeting of
5 the work group.

6 (13) The work group shall submit a report to the governor and the
7 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, on
8 potential uses and impacts of blockchain, including impacts on
9 existing industries, utilities, demand for electricity, and demand
10 for computer processing capacity, and recommended policies that will
11 facilitate the development of blockchain applications and the sector
12 overall in Washington, grow the related workforce, evaluate
13 environmental advantages and concerns, make Washington a favorable
14 place to do business, address racial equity considerations, and
15 improve the lives of Washington residents.

16 (14) The work group may create subcommittees to perform duties
17 under this section.

18 (15) This section expires January 1, 2024. The work group is
19 dissolved upon the expiration of this section."

20 Correct the title.

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