

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5544

Chapter 226, Laws of 2022

67th Legislature
2022 Regular Session

WASHINGTON BLOCKCHAIN WORK GROUP

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 2022

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022
Yeas 48 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 4, 2022
Yeas 94 Nays 4

LURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Approved March 30, 2022 2:44 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5544** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

Secretary

FILED

March 31, 2022

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5544

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2022 Regular Session

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 of and policies for blockchain
8 technology including, but not limited to, applications in computing,
9 banking and other financial services, the real estate transaction
10 process, health care, supply chain management, higher education,
11 identity verification, and public recordkeeping to help attract and
12 support employees and new businesses with a supportive 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;

- 1 (e) An individual representing a Washington-based technology
2 trade association for the full cross section of the technology
3 sector;
- 4 (f) An individual from the Cascadia blockchain council;
- 5 (g) An individual from a higher education institution in the
6 field of blockchain;
- 7 (h) An individual representing a trade association for financial
8 services companies that do business in Washington;
- 9 (i) An individual representing a trade association for title
10 insurance companies that do business in Washington;
- 11 (j) An individual representing a trade association for health
12 care companies that do business in Washington;
- 13 (k) An individual representing an association for county
14 government officials in Washington;
- 15 (l) An individual representing a trade association for
16 Washington-based agriculture;
- 17 (m) An individual representing a trade association for property
18 and casualty insurance companies that do business in Washington;
- 19 (n) An individual representing a consumer advocacy organization;
- 20 (o) An individual representing a large company who has experience
21 working with blockchain applications;
- 22 (p) An individual representing a small company who has experience
23 working with blockchain applications;
- 24 (q) Two individuals representing the Washington state labor
25 council working in the fields impacted by blockchain technology or
26 its applications;
- 27 (r) Two individuals representing advocacy organizations that
28 represent individuals or protected classes of communities
29 historically impacted by surveillance technologies and bias in
30 technology-based systems including, but not limited to, African
31 American, Latino American, Native American, Pacific Islander
32 American, and Asian American communities, religious minorities,
33 protest and activist groups, and other vulnerable communities;
- 34 (s) An individual representing an environmental advocacy
35 organization with expertise in energy policy;
- 36 (t) An individual representing an environmental advocacy
37 organization with expertise in sustainability; and
- 38 (u) An individual representing an association for public utility
39 districts in Washington.

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

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

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

7 (b) One representative from each of the two largest caucuses of
8 the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
9 of representatives.

10 (5) In addition to the members listed in subsections (2) and (4)
11 of this section, the following individuals shall serve as ex officio
12 members of the work group: The director of the department of
13 financial institutions, or the director's designee; the director of
14 Washington technology solutions, the consolidated technology services
15 agency, or the director's designee; the director of the department of
16 agriculture, or the director's designee; the insurance commissioner,
17 or the insurance commissioner's designee; the director of the
18 department of ecology, or the director's designee; the state auditor,
19 or the state auditor's designee; the secretary of state, or the
20 secretary's designee; the director of the department of revenue, or
21 the director's designee; the director of the department of licensing,
22 or the director's designee; the director of the office of equity, or
23 the director's designee; and the director of the health care
24 authority, or the director's designee.

25 (6) In addition to the members of the work group under
26 subsections (2), (4), and (5) of this section, individuals
27 representing other sectors may be invited by the chair, in
28 consultation with the other appointed members of the work group, to
29 participate in an advisory capacity in meetings of the work group.
30 Individuals participating in an advisory capacity under this
31 subsection are not members of the work group, may not vote, and are
32 not subject to the appointment process established in this section.
33 There is no limit to the number of individuals who may participate in
34 work group meetings in an advisory capacity under this subsection.

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

39 (8) The work group shall hold its inaugural meeting by December
40 1, 2022. The work group shall elect a chair from among its members at

1 the inaugural meeting. The election of the chair must be by a
2 majority vote of the work group members who are present at the
3 inaugural meeting. The chair of the work group is responsible for
4 arranging subsequent meetings and developing meeting agendas.

5 (9) Staff support for the work group, including arranging the
6 inaugural meeting of the work group and assisting the chair of the
7 work group in arranging subsequent meetings, must be provided by the
8 department of commerce.

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

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

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

19 (13) The work group shall submit a report to the governor and the
20 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, on
21 potential uses and impacts of blockchain, including impacts on
22 existing industries, utilities, demand for electricity, and demand
23 for computer processing capacity, and recommended policies that will
24 facilitate the development of blockchain applications and the sector
25 overall in Washington, grow the related workforce, evaluate
26 environmental advantages and concerns, make Washington a favorable
27 place to do business, address racial equity considerations, and
28 improve the lives of Washington residents.

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

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

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2022.

Passed by the House March 4, 2022.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2022.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 2022.

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