

By: Parker, Capriglione, Bucy, Button,  
Wilson

H.B. No. 1576

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a work group on blockchain matters  
concerning this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

(1) "Blockchain" includes digital assets, virtual  
currency, and the integration of smart contracts.

(2) "Work group" means the work group on blockchain  
matters established under this section.

(b) The work group on blockchain matters is composed of the  
following 16 members:

(1) one member of the house of representatives  
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) one member of the senate appointed by the  
lieutenant governor;

(3) two members representing institutions of higher  
education appointed by the governor;

(4) one ex-officio member representing the Department  
of Information Resources appointed by the governor;

(5) one ex-officio member representing the secretary  
of state appointed by the governor; and

(6) 10 members of the public, five of whom are  
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and five of  
whom are appointed by the lieutenant governor, who:

1                   (A) have knowledge and experience in blockchain  
2 technology; or

3                   (B) represent an industry that would benefit from  
4 the use of blockchain technology.

5           (c) The governor shall designate a member of the work group  
6 appointed under Subsection (b)(3) of this section to serve as chair  
7 of the work group. The members of the work group appointed under  
8 Subsections (b)(1) and (2) of this section shall serve as co-vice  
9 chairs of the work group.

10           (d) A member of the work group may not receive compensation  
11 for serving on the work group but is entitled to reimbursement for  
12 expenses incurred by the member in the performance of official  
13 duties as a member of the work group as provided by the General  
14 Appropriations Act.

15           (e) The work group shall meet at the call of the chair.

16           (f) The work group shall develop a master plan for the  
17 expansion of the blockchain industry in this state and recommend  
18 policies and state investments in connection with blockchain  
19 technology. In developing the master plan, the work group shall:

20                   (1) identify economic growth and development  
21 opportunities presented by blockchain technology;

22                   (2) assess the existing blockchain industry in this  
23 state;

24                   (3) review workforce needs and academic programs  
25 required to build blockchain expertise across all relevant  
26 industries; and

27                   (4) make any legislative recommendations that will

1 help promote innovation and economic growth by reducing barriers to  
2 and expediting the expansion of the state's blockchain industry  
3 based on its findings under Subdivisions (1)-(3) of this  
4 subsection.

5 (g) The chair of the work group may create sub-work groups  
6 at the chair's discretion for the efficient operation of the work  
7 group. The chair shall appoint the chair of each sub-work group.  
8 The chair of a sub-work group may invite other members of the work  
9 group to serve on the sub-work group. A sub-work group may consult  
10 with subject matter experts.

11 (h) Not later than October 31, 2022, the work group shall  
12 submit a report that includes the master plan developed under  
13 Subsection (f) of this section and any findings and recommendations  
14 from the sub-work groups appointed under Subsection (g) of this  
15 section to each standing committee of the senate and house of  
16 representatives with primary jurisdiction over economic  
17 development or technology issues.

18 (i) The work group may adopt rules, procedures, and policies  
19 as necessary to administer this section and implement the  
20 responsibilities of the work group.

21 (j) This Act expires and the work group is abolished June  
22 30, 2023.

23 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable, but not later than  
24 October 1, 2021, the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of  
25 the house of representatives shall appoint the members of the work  
26 group on blockchain matters established by this Act.

27 SECTION 3. Not later than November 1, 2021, the work group

H.B. No. 1576

1 on blockchain matters shall hold its initial meeting.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.