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By:  Parker S.B. No. 770

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the commingling of funds by digital asset service providers.

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

SECTION 1.  Subtitle E, Title 3, Finance Code, is amended by adding Chapter 160 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 160. DIGITAL ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS

Sec. 160.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Customer funds" means the digital assets, fiat currency, or other property of a digital asset customer.

(2)  "Department" means the Texas Department of Banking.

(3)  "Digital asset" means a natively electronic asset that confers economic, proprietary, or access rights and is recorded or stored in a blockchain, cryptographically secured distributed ledger, or similar technology, and includes:

(A)  a digital asset that the laws of any country consider to be legal tender; or

(B)  virtual currency as defined by Section 12.001, Business & Commerce Code.

(4)  "Digital asset customer" means a person who deposits fiat currency or a digital asset with a digital asset service provider.

(5)  "Digital asset service provider" means an electronic platform that facilitates the trading of digital assets on behalf of a digital asset customer and maintains custody of the customer's digital assets.

Sec. 160.002.  APPLICABILITY. (a) This chapter applies to a digital asset service provider in this state that:

(1)  serves more than 500 digital asset customers in this state; or

(2)  has at least $10 million in customer funds.

(b)  This chapter does not apply to:

(1)  a bank, as defined by Section 31.002;

(2)  an institutional trading division or accredited investor division of a digital asset service provider; or

(3)  an institution excluded by rule from this chapter by the banking commissioner of Texas.

Sec. 160.003.  DUTIES OF DIGITAL ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS. (a) A digital asset service provider may not:

(1)  commingle customer funds with funds belonging to the digital asset service provider, including the digital asset service provider's:

(A)  operating capital;

(B)  proprietary accounts;

(C)  digital assets;

(D)  fiat currency; or

(E)  other property that is not customer funds;

(2)  use customer funds to secure or guarantee a transaction other than a transaction for the customer contributing the funds;

(3)  maintain customer funds in such a manner that a digital asset customer may be unable to fully withdraw the customer's funds; or

(4)  invest in an obligation not listed under Subsection (b)(2).

(b)  In addition to any other requirements under state law, a digital asset service provider shall maintain reserves in an amount sufficient to fulfill all obligations to digital asset customers. These reserves may be held:

(1)  in a commingled account in which digital assets of digital asset customers are not strictly segregated from each other; or

(2)  in the digital asset corresponding to the digital asset customer's obligations or obligations issued or guaranteed by a governmental entity listed in Section 2256.009, Government Code, as applicable.

(c)  A digital asset service provider shall create a plan to allow:

(1)  each digital asset customer to view at least quarterly an accounting of:

(A)  any outstanding liabilities owed to the digital asset customer; and

(B)  the digital asset customer's digital assets held in reserve by the digital asset service provider; and

(2)  an auditor to access and view at any time the information made available to each digital asset customer under Subdivision (1).

(d)  Not later than the 90th day after the end of each fiscal year, a digital asset service provider shall file a report with the department. The report must include:

(1)  an attestation by the digital asset service provider of outstanding liability to digital asset customers, documented using zero-knowledge encryption or a similar industry standard;

(2)  evidence of customer assets held by the person, documented using zero-knowledge encryption or a similar industry standard;

(3)  a copy of the provider's plan under Subsection (c); and

(4)  an attestation by an auditor that the information in the report is true and accurate.

Sec. 160.004.  REQUIREMENTS FOR MONEY TRANSMISSION LICENSE. (a) In addition to any other requirements under Subchapter D, Chapter 151, a digital asset service provider must comply with the requirements of this chapter to obtain and maintain any money transmission license under Subchapter D, Chapter 151.

(b)  The department may suspend and revoke a money transmission license issued under Subchapter D, Chapter 151, to a digital asset provider if the provider violates the requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 160.005.  RULES. The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.