

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3612

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a working group to recommend to Congress a definition of blockchain technology, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 28, 2021

Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. GUTHRIE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a working group to recommend to Congress a definition of blockchain technology, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Blockchain Promotion  
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND DEFINITION OF**  
2 **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
5 Commerce shall establish within the Department of Com-  
6 merce a working group to be known as the “Blockchain  
7 Working Group”.

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Blockchain Working  
10 Group shall be composed of a number of members  
11 to be determined by the Secretary, to be appointed  
12 in accordance with paragraph (2).

13 (2) APPOINTMENT.—

14 (A) REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL  
15 AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall designate Fed-  
16 eral agencies to be represented on the  
17 Blockchain Working Group, as the Secretary  
18 considers appropriate to ensure representation  
19 of a cross-section of Federal agencies that could  
20 use or benefit from blockchain technology. The  
21 head of each agency so designated shall appoint  
22 an officer or employee of such agency to serve  
23 as a member of the Blockchain Working Group.

24 (B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERN-  
25 MENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
2 appoint representatives of nongovern-  
3 mental stakeholders with respect to  
4 blockchain technology to serve as members  
5 of the Blockchain Working Group.

6 (ii) REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN  
7 STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED.—The members  
8 of the Blockchain Working Group ap-  
9 pointed under clause (i) shall include rep-  
10 resentatives of the following:

11 (I) Information and communica-  
12 tions technology manufacturers, sup-  
13 pliers, software providers, service pro-  
14 viders, and vendors.

15 (II) Subject matter experts rep-  
16 resenting industrial sectors other than  
17 the technology sector that the Sec-  
18 retary determines can benefit from  
19 blockchain technology.

20 (III) Small, medium, and large  
21 businesses.

22 (IV) Individuals and institutions  
23 engaged in academic research relating  
24 to blockchain technology.

1 (V) Nonprofit organizations and  
2 consumer advocacy groups engaged in  
3 activities relating to blockchain tech-  
4 nology.

5 (VI) Rural and urban stake-  
6 holders.

7 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
10 Blockchain Working Group shall submit to Congress  
11 a report that contains—

12 (A) a recommended definition of the dis-  
13 tributed ledger technology commonly referred to  
14 as “blockchain technology”; and

15 (B) recommendations for—

16 (i) a study to be conducted by the As-  
17 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-  
18 munications and Information, in coordina-  
19 tion with the Federal Communications  
20 Commission, on the impact of blockchain  
21 technology on electromagnetic spectrum  
22 policy;

23 (ii) a study that examines a range of  
24 potential applications, including non-finan-

1                   cial applications, for blockchain technology;  
2                   and  
3                   (iii) opportunities within Federal  
4                   agencies to use blockchain technology.

5           (2) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN  
6       DRAFT NIST REPORT.—In making recommendations  
7       under paragraph (1), the Blockchain Working Group  
8       may consider any recommendations contained in the  
9       draft of National Institute of Standards and Tech-  
10      nology Internal Report 8202, entitled “Blockchain  
11      Technology Overview”, that was released in January  
12      2018.

13      (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14           (1) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal  
15      agency” means an agency, as defined in section 551  
16      of title 5, United States Code.

17           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
18      the Secretary of Commerce.

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