

1 **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY ACT**

2 2019 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Daniel Hemmert**

5 House Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill enacts provisions related to blockchain technology.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

- 12 ▶ defines and clarifies terms related to blockchain technology;
- 13 ▶ exempts a person who facilitates the creation, exchange, or sale of certain

14 blockchain technology-related products from Title 7, Chapter 25, Money

15 Transmitter Act; ~~H→~~ **and**

16 [~~→~~ ~~creates a legislative task force to:~~

17 ~~• study the potential applications of blockchain technology to government~~  
18 ~~services;~~

19 ~~• review current uses of blockchain technology by governments in other states and~~  
20 ~~countries;~~

21 ~~• H→ [recommend] consider recommending ←H a pilot project for blockchain~~  
21a ~~technology in Utah at a state or~~

22 ~~municipal level;~~

23 ~~• review commercial applications of blockchain technology for future economic~~  
24 ~~development in Utah; and~~

25 ~~• provide a report, including any proposed legislation, to the Business and Labor~~  
26 ~~Interim Committee and the Legislative Management Committee; and] ←H~~

- 27 ▶ makes technical changes.



28 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

29 None

30 **Other Special Clauses:**

31 ~~Ĥ→ [This bill provides a repeal date for the task force.] None ←Ĥ~~

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 AMENDS:

34 **7-25-102**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 284

35 ~~Ĥ→ [ENACTS:~~

36 ~~———— **36-29-106**, Utah Code Annotated 1953] ←Ĥ~~



38 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

39 Section 1. Section **7-25-102** is amended to read:

40 **7-25-102. Definitions.**

41 As used in this chapter:

42 (1) "Applicant" means a person filing an application for a license under this chapter.

43 (2) "Authorized agent" means a person designated by the licensee under this chapter to  
44 sell or issue payment instruments or engage in the business of transmitting money on behalf of  
45 a licensee.

46 (3) "Blockchain" or "blockchain technology" means an electronic method of storing  
47 data that is:

48 (a) maintained by consensus of multiple unaffiliated parties;

49 (b) distributed across multiple locations; and

50 (c) mathematically verified.

51 (4) "Blockchain token" means an electronic record that is:

52 (a) recorded on a blockchain; and

53 (b) capable of being traded between persons without an intermediary.

54 ~~(5)~~ (5) "Executive officer" means the licensee's president, chair of the executive  
55 committee, executive vice president, treasurer, chief financial officer, or any other person who  
56 performs similar functions.

57 ~~(6)~~ (6) "Key shareholder" means a person, or group of persons acting in concert, who  
58 is the owner of 20% or more of a class of an applicant's stock.

59           ~~[(5)]~~ (7) "Licensee" means a person licensed under this chapter.

60           ~~[(6)]~~ (8) "Material litigation" means litigation that, according to generally accepted  
61 accounting principles, is considered significant to a person's financial health and would be  
62 required to be referenced in an annual audited financial statement, report to shareholders, or  
63 similar document.

64           ~~[(7)]~~ (9) (a) "Money transmission" means the sale or issuance of a payment instrument  
65 or engaging in the business of receiving money for transmission or transmitting money within  
66 the United States or to locations abroad by any and all means, including payment instrument,  
67 wire, facsimile, or electronic transfer.

68           (b) "Money transmission" does not include a blockchain token.

69           ~~[(8)]~~ (10) "Nationwide database" means the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System  
70 and Registry, authorized under 12 U.S.C. Sec. 5101 for federal licensing of mortgage loan  
71 originators.

72           ~~[(9)]~~ (11) "Outstanding payment instrument" means a payment instrument issued by  
73 the licensee that has been sold in the United States directly by the licensee or a payment  
74 instrument issued by the licensee that has been sold and reported to the licensee as having been  
75 sold by an authorized agent of the licensee in the United States, and that has not yet been paid  
76 by or for the licensee.

77           ~~[(10)]~~ (12) (a) "Payment instrument" means a check, draft, money order, travelers  
78 check, or other instrument or written order for the transmission or payment of money, sold or  
79 issued to one or more persons, whether or not the instrument is negotiable.

80           (b) "Payment instrument" does not include a credit card voucher, letter of credit, or  
81 instrument that is redeemable by the issuer in goods or services.

82           ~~[(11)]~~ (13) "Remit" means either to make direct payment of the money to the licensee  
83 or its representatives authorized to receive the money, or to deposit the money in a depository  
84 institution in an account in the name of the licensee.

85           ~~¶~~ → ~~[Section 2. Section 36-29-106 is enacted to read:~~

86           ~~\_\_\_\_\_ 36-29-106. Blockchain Pilot Project Evaluation Task Force.~~

87           ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (1) As used in this section:~~

88           ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) "Blockchain" means the same term as is defined in Section 7-25-102.~~

89           ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) "Task force" means the Blockchain Pilot Project Evaluation Task Force created in] ←~~ ¶

90 ~~H~~→ [this section:  
 91 ~~———— (2) There is created the Blockchain Pilot Project Evaluation Task Force consisting of~~  
 92 ~~the following~~ ~~S~~→ ~~[12] 13~~ ~~←S~~ ~~members:~~  
 93 ~~———— (a) one member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;~~  
 94 ~~———— (b) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House~~  
 95 ~~of Representatives;~~  
 96 ~~S~~→ ~~———— (c) the insurance commissioner appointed under Section 31A-2-102 or the~~  
 96a ~~commissioner's designee;~~ ~~←S~~  
 96b ~~———— S~~→ ~~[(e)] (d)~~ ~~←S~~ ~~the executive director of the Department of Technology Services created in~~  
 96c ~~Section~~  
 97 ~~63F-1-103 or the executive director's designee;~~  
 98 ~~———— S~~→ ~~[(d)] (e)~~ ~~←S~~ ~~the executive director of the Utah Department of Financial Institutions~~  
 98a ~~created in~~  
 99 ~~Section 7-1-201 or the executive director's designee;~~  
 100 ~~S~~→ ~~[(e)] (f)~~ ~~←S~~ ~~the director of the Utah Division of Securities created in Section 61-1-18 or the~~  
 101 ~~director's designee;~~  
 102 ~~———— S~~→ ~~[(f)] (g)~~ ~~←S~~ ~~an individual who represents the Office of the Attorney General;~~  
 103 ~~———— S~~→ ~~[(g)] (h)~~ ~~←S~~ ~~three members from the private business and technology community who~~  
 103a ~~are~~  
 104 ~~familiar with blockchain technology, appointed by the president of the Senate; and~~  
 105 ~~———— S~~→ ~~[(h)] (i)~~ ~~←S~~ ~~three members from the private business and technology community who~~  
 105a ~~are~~  
 106 ~~familiar with blockchain technology, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives:~~  
 107 ~~———— (3) (a) The member of the Senate appointed under Subsection (2)(a) shall serve as a~~  
 108 ~~cochair of the task force;~~  
 109 ~~———— (b) The member of the House of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(b)~~  
 110 ~~shall serve as a cochair of the task force;~~  
 111 ~~———— (4) (a) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum;~~  
 112 ~~———— (b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the task force;~~  
 113 ~~———— (5) (a) Salaries and expenses of the members of the task force who are legislators shall~~  
 114 ~~be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3,~~  
 115 ~~Legislator Compensation;~~  
 116 ~~———— (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator:~~  
 117 ~~———— (i) may not receive compensation for the member's work associated with the task force;~~  
 118 ~~and~~  
 119 ~~———— (ii) may receive per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses incurred as a member~~  
 120 ~~of the task force at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106]~~ ~~←H~~

- 121 ~~and [63A-3-107](#):~~
- 122 ~~—— (6) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support~~
- 123 ~~to the task force.~~
- 124 ~~—— (7) The task force shall:~~
- 125 ~~—— (a) review the potential applications of blockchain technology to government services;~~
- 126 ~~—— (b) review current uses of blockchain technology by governments in other states or~~
- 127 ~~countries;~~
- 128 ~~—— (c) ~~recommend~~ consider recommending ~~a~~ a pilot project for blockchain~~
- 128a ~~technology in Utah at a state or municipal~~
- 129 ~~level; and~~
- 130 ~~—— (d) review commercial applications of blockchain technology for future economic~~
- 131 ~~development in the state.~~
- 132 ~~—— (8) On or before November 30, 2019, the task force shall provide a report on the task~~
- 133 ~~force's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to:~~
- 134 ~~—— (a) the Business and Labor Interim Committee; and~~
- 135 ~~—— (b) the Legislative Management Committee.~~
- 136 ~~Section 3. Repeal date.~~
- 137 ~~Section [36-29-106](#), is repealed on June 1, 2020.] ~~←~~~~