

S. 553, Blockchain Promotion Act of 2019

 As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 on July 10, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	*
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 553 would require the Department of Commerce to establish a blockchain working group with governmental and nongovernmental members. Within one year of enactment, the bill would require the group to recommend a working definition of blockchain technology, research topics, and opportunities for federal agencies to use blockchain.

Because there is already a blockchain working group within the department, and based on information from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), CBO estimates that implementing S. 553 would cost less than \$500,000 in fiscal year 2020; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO expects that the group would primarily rely on a report that NIST published in October 2018.¹

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Hughes. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

1. According to NIST, “blockchains are tamper evident and tamper resistant digital ledgers implemented in a distributed fashion (i.e., without a central repository) and usually without a central authority (i.e., a bank, company, or government). At their basic level, they enable a community of users to record transactions in a shared ledger within that community, such that under normal operation of the blockchain network no transaction can be changed once published.” See Dylan Yaga and others, *Blockchain Technology Overview*, NISTIR 8202 (National Institute of Standards and Technology, October 2018), p. ii, <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.IR.8202> (PDF, 755 KB).