



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR A HEARING ON THE ILLINOIS BLOCKCHAIN TASK FORCE REPORT AND THE APPLICATIONS OF ITS FINDINGS TO COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, blockchains offer enormous potential for the storage and maintenance of data and records; and

WHEREAS, a blockchain is a database that is replicated over a peer-to-peer network that is designed to achieve consistent and reliable agreement over a record of events between independent participants through consensus about changes to the state of the shared database; and

WHEREAS, blockchains allow digital information to be distributed, but not copied, making it very difficult to inappropriately modify the original data. Anything of value, money, titles, deeds, votes, and identity attributes can be exchanged, stored, and managed securely and privately; and

WHEREAS, there are a variety of potential applications of blockchains to manage the voluminous data that Cook County manages, including, but not limited to, applications in the Office of the Cook County Clerk, Recorder of Deeds, Assessor, Clerk of the Circuit Court and much more; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2016, the State of Illinois formed the Illinois Blockchain Initiative to explore how Blockchain could help spur economic development in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Blockchain Task Force was charged by Illinois House Joint Resolution 25, which was adopted by both houses on June 28, 2017, to study aspects of distributed ledger technology that includes opportunities and risks associated with using blockchain, different types of blockchains (public and private), as well as projects and use cases in other states and domains that Illinois could consider utilizing; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2018, the Illinois Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Task Force issued a report on:

- 1) opportunities and risks associated with using blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies,
- 2) the different types of blockchains, public and private,
- 3) projects and use cases in other states/nations that Illinois could consider,
- 4) how current state laws could be modified to support this technology,
- 5) encryption technology, including Illinois' digital signature infrastructure, and
- 6) official reports and recommendations from the Illinois Blockchain Initiative.

WHEREAS, the Task Force found that that blockchain technology and its built-in encryption can facilitate highly-secure methods for interacting with government and keeping paperless records, increasing data accuracy and providing better cybersecurity protections for Illinois residents; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a joint meeting of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations and Technology Committees of the Cook County Board of Commissioners convene to review the Illinois Blockchain Task Force Report and the possible applications of blockchain technology within Cook County.