118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION **H. R. 8275**

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a public blockchain-based system to securely store and share data related to border security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2024

Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. DONALDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a public blockchain-based system to securely store and share data related to border security, 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 "Border Security and

5 Blockchain Technology Act".

6 **SEC. 2. BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY FOR BORDER APPRE-**

7 **HENSIONS.**

8 (a) IMPLEMENTATION.—

1   (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
2   after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3   Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
4   tion shall select a public blockchain platform that
5   meets the agency's needs and requirements, as set
6   forth in the agency's budgets for fiscal year 2017–
7   2021.
8   (2) SMART CONTRACTS.—The Commissioner of
9   U.S. Customs and Border Protection may develop
10 smart contracts that may be used to securely store
11 and share data related to border security.
12   (3) INTEGRATION.—The Commissioner of U.S.
13 Customs and Border Protection shall integrate exist-
14 ing systems, such as biometric data and travel docu-
15 ments, with the public blockchain platform selected
16 under paragraph (1).
17   (4) DATA VERIFICATION AND INTEGRITY.—The
18 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
19 tion shall utilize blockchain technology to ensure the
20 integrity and immutability of data related to border
21 security operations, including biometric data, visa in-
22 formation, and customs documentation.
23   (5) ENHANCED INTEROPERABILITY.—The Com-
24 missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection
25 shall facilitate secure and efficient data exchange

1 and interoperability between various Federal and
2 international border control and immigration agen-
3 cies, leveraging blockchain's decentralized nature to
4 enhance collaboration without compromising data se-
5 curity.

6 (6) DATA INPUT.—The platform shall be de-
7 signed to input data in real-time from all relevant
8 Federal Government agencies, including U.S. Cus-
9 toms and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration
10 and Customs Enforcement.

11 (7) APPLICATIONS.—The public blockchain
12 platform shall be utilized for the following applica-
13 tions to enhance border security operations:

14 (A) DOCUMENTATION VERIFICATION.—The
15 platform shall be utilized to securely verify the
16 authenticity of travel and identity documents in
17 real time, reducing fraud and streamlining the
18 entry process.

19 (B) SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY.—The plat-
20 form shall be utilized to improve the tracking
21 and management of goods through customs, en-
22 hancing transparency and efficiency in trade
23 and commerce.

24 (C) PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—The plat-
25 form shall be utilized to manage border control

1   personnel deployment and operations securely

2   and efficiently.

3   (D) REAL-TIME DATA SHARING.—The

4   platform shall be utilized to enable secure and

5   instant data sharing among border control

6   agencies, law enforcement, and other relevant

7   government entities to enhance situational

8   awareness and response times.

9   (8) OBJECTIVES.—The implementation of the

10   public blockchain platform aims to achieve the fol-

11   lowing objectives:

12   (A) ENHANCED SECURITY.—The platform

13   shall trengthen the security of border oper-

14   ations by leveraging blockchain's immutable

15   and encrypted record-keeping capabilities.

16   (B) IMPROVED EFFICIENCY.—The plat-

17   form shall streamline border control processes

18   through faster verification procedures and re-

19   duced manual data entry.

20   (C) INCREASED TRANSPARENCY.—The

21   platform shall provide a transparent and tam-

22   per-proof system for the management and over-

23   sight of border security operations.

24   (D) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.—The

25   platform shall facilitate a higher degree of col-

1 laboration and data sharing among Federal

2 agencies involved in border security.

3 (b) OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION.—The Commis-

4 sioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall estab-

5 lish a system for oversight and evaluation of the imple-

6 mentation of public blockchain technology in border secu-

7 rity, including the appointment of a project manager, reg-

8 ular reports to the relevant authorities and an independent

9 evaluation of the project.

10 (c) SECURITY.—The platform shall be designed to en-

11 sure the security and confidentiality of sensitive informa-

12 tion.

13 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months

15 after the selection of a public blockchain platform

16 under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Homeland

17 Security shall submit to Congress a report on the

18 implementation of the platform, including a descrip-

19 tion of the platform's capabilities and any challenges

20 encountered during implementation.

21 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year

22 after the submission of the report required under

23 paragraph (1) and annually thereafter, the Secretary

24 of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress a re-

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1 port on the ongoing operation and maintenance of

2 the platform.

3 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) BLOCKCHAIN.—The term "blockchain"

5 means a distributed ledger technology that uses

6 cryptography to secure and validate transactions and

7 data.

8 (2) BORDER APPREHENSIONS.—The term "bor-

9 der apprehensions" means the arrest and detain-

10 ment of individuals by Federal law enforcement offi-

11 cials for immigration violations at or near the

12 United States border.

13 (3) BORDER CONTROL AGENCIES.—The term

14 "border control agencies" means U.S. Customs and

15 Border Protection and any other Government agen-

16 cies the Secretary of Homeland Security determines

17 is involved in border security.

18 (4) SMART CONTRACT.—The term "smart con-

19 tract" means a self-executing contract with the

20 terms of the agreement written into lines of code.

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