
SENATE BILL 5534

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senator Brown

Prefiled 12/13/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of verifiable credentials; and
2 creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that blockchain-
5 based technologies are enabling new and innovative developments in a
6 variety of fields, including digital identity. In light of the
7 dangers posed to individuals by data breaches, the legislature
8 intends to consider whether decentralized management of identity data
9 necessary for use by the state will provide greater privacy
10 protection to the residents of Washington. Therefore, the legislature
11 concludes that state government should examine opportunities for
12 allowing for the use of verifiable credentials in transactions with
13 or involving state government agencies, public institutions of higher
14 education, and political subdivisions of the state.

15 (2) By December 1, 2022, the consolidated technology services
16 agency, department of health, department of licensing, institutions
17 of higher education, and secretary of state shall each produce an
18 individual, agency-specific report to the legislature detailing, in
19 the opinion of each agency, which of the agency's programs, services,
20 and projects may be well-suited to the inclusion and use of

1 verifiable credentials as a means for improving efficiency, customer
2 experience, and safeguarding privacy.

3 (3) In preparing reports under subsection (2) of this section,
4 agencies shall consult with appropriate technology industry
5 representatives, including a Washington-based trade association for
6 the full cross-section of the technology sector. The purpose of the
7 consultation required under this subsection is to ensure that the
8 agencies become informed of the basic definitions and standards used
9 by the technology industry in Washington for verifiable credentials.

10 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
11 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (a) "Agency" means the consolidated technology services agency,
13 department of health, department of licensing, institutions of higher
14 education, and secretary of state.

15 (b) "Blockchain" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 1.80.010.

16 (c) "Institutions of higher education" has the same meaning as
17 defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

18 (d) "Verifiable credential" means a tamper-evident credential
19 that has authorship that can be cryptographically verified.

20 NEW SECTION.

Sec. 2.

(1) The legislature finds that
21 establishing a trust framework for verifiable credentials would
22 benefit the people of Washington through the public and private
23 sectors by enhancing efficiency and providing for uniformity around
24 issues such as privacy and data sharing. Furthermore, a trust
25 framework for Washington would allow for the use of comprehensive,
26 interoperable definitions and standards for verifiable credentials.

27 (2) By October 1, 2022, the consolidated technology services
28 agency shall develop a process for creating a recommended trust
29 framework for verifiable credentials in Washington. The process
30 developed under this subsection should include the public and private
31 sectors and must involve participation with technology industry
32 representatives, consumer protection advocates, and other similar
33 stakeholders.

34 (3) The consolidated technology services agency shall engage with
35 stakeholders and others through the process developed under
36 subsection (2) of this section to create a recommended trust
37 framework for verifiable credentials in Washington by December 1,
38 2023. The consolidated technology services agency shall submit the
39 recommended trust framework, along with any recommendations for

1 legislation necessary to enact or implement the trust framework, to
2 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023.

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