

HCS HB 1136 -- DIGITAL ASSETS AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPONSOR: Byrnes

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs by a vote of 10 to 3 with 1 voting present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1136.

This bill creates the "Digital Assets Authorization Act".

The bill defines "blockchain", "blockchain protocol", "decentralized", "digital asset", "hardware wallet", "node", "public information", and "self-hosted wallet".

Under this bill, the State of Missouri or a municipality cannot prohibit an individual or person from accepting digital assets as payment for goods and services; or to maintain self-custody of a digital asset using a self-hosted wallet or hardware wallet.

The bill prohibits the State of Missouri or a municipality from imposing any additional tax, withholding, assessment, or charge based solely upon the use of a digital asset used as a payment method to purchase goods or services.

The bill provides for the lawful operation of a node in Missouri for certain purposes relating to blockchain protocols, as specified in the bill, and also provides that it be lawful for the State, its departments, and all political subdivisions therein to store, present, utilize, and maintain public information on a domestic blockchain protocol. In addition, the bill states that it does not override or limit the applicability of certain laws identified in the bill.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this will foster innovation by creating a framework that allows people to use blockchain and crypto without a bunch of laws against them preventing them from flourishing. The State of Missouri is a non-player right now in an emerging industry, and these technologies can be very effective in preventing fraud and facilitating payment via digital assets.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Byrnes.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.