



Florida Blockchain Task Force Meeting

Meeting Date: September 23, 2019

110 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida



Agenda

- I. Comments from Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis
- II. Member Introductions
- III. Presentation: Overview of Chapter 2019-140, Laws of Florida
- IV. Consideration and Adoption of Task Force Bylaws
- V. Election of Task Force Chair and Vice Chair
- VI. Presentation: Government in the Sunshine Training
- VII. Review Proposed Schedule
- VIII. Open Discussion
- IX. Other Business & Public Testimony
- X. Adjourn

Call to Order

Meeting called to order and welcome at 1:02 p.m. by Meredith Brock Stanfield

Roll Call

Roll was called at 1:04 p.m. by task force staff

Members present: All appointed members present

Ron Brisé

Charles Ghini

Director Ken Lawson

Woody Pollack

Director Terry Rhodes

Secretary Jonathan Satter (Arrived after roll call)

Mayor Francis Suarez (via telephone)

Robin Westcott (via telephone)

I. **Comments from Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis at 1:05 p.m.:**

I'm proud of the task force that has been assembled. Governor DeSantis, President Galvano, and Speaker Oliva have tapped many talented stakeholders to serve our state.

I felt it was important to address this body at its first meeting so that I could share my hopes for what you can accomplish.

This is a great time for technology in this state. Florida's leaders, myself included, support technology growth and innovation, which ultimately grows our economy and increases our competitiveness. That's

why I worked to establish this task force within my agency. I want the next generation of entrepreneurs and technology leaders from around the world to come here, to study here, and to grow here.

Blockchain proponents say this technology will be as transformational as the internet. If this is true – we need to make sure Florida is ready.

It's up to you to study how we can foster and expand blockchain to make Florida a leader. As Florida's CFO, I am especially interested in how blockchain can help fight fraud and scams. How can we use blockchain and automation to solve the complications that come from a technology-driven economy? That is, how do we fight fraud and abuse by using technology? Blockchain can serve as an objective, trustworthy, third-party mediator in almost any transaction. I see such potential to use technology to minimize the risks and costs of data breaches and fraudulent technology. My hope for the future of blockchain is that we'll see personalized, secure digital IDs become a real thing.

It will take a great deal of collaboration, innovation, and initiative across industries and technology providers to make any of this a reality. But with the establishment of this task force, Florida takes the important first step toward the future.

II. Member Introductions at 1:08 p.m.:

Members were asked to introduce themselves, comment on their professional background, their interest in blockchain technology, and what they hope to gain from the work of the task force. The following provides summary comments from members.

Ronald Brisé: Mr. Brisé discussed interest in using technology to better lives, commerce and to manage threats.

Charles Ghini: Charles Ghini illustrated the importance of a partnership between the public and private sectors, the necessity for a competent workforce, and to focus on solving the right problems.

Director Lawson: Director Lawson has interest based on transparency and to develop strategies to fight fraud, while educating the workforce and creating opportunities for them to grow. Director Lawson was present when the Governor and CFO just announced their joint Finn-tech legislation, which could build on findings from this task force.

Woody Pollack: Mr. Pollack would like to continue growing innovation in the state of Florida and to attract businesses and individuals from other states.

Director Rhodes: Director Rhodes is looking to continuing her focus of modernizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The idea of blockchain technology is one that provide consumer ease of access as well as security.

Secretary Satter: Secretary Satter described a focus on innovation and how it may help Department of Management Services and its responsibilities, as well as the Division of State Technology to support other agencies.

Mayor Suarez: Mayor Suarez seeks to understand the opportunities these new technologies present. Some areas of interest are: transparency, data security, decentralization and what regulation may look like in the future.

Robin Westcott: This technology presents the opportunity to both create new processes while also speeding up processes and provide safeguards to consumers. It is one that needs both the public and private sector to be successful.

III. Presentation: Overview of Chapter 2019-140, Laws of Florida at 1:22p.m.

This was provided by Meredith Stanfield, Director of Legislative and Cabinet Affairs for CFO Patronis. Members received an overview of the legislation that established this task force, its mission, duties, and goals.

Note: Blockchain E-Mail established for member communication and to receive questions regarding the task force – blockchain@myfloridacfo.gov

IV. Consideration and Adoption of Task Force Bylaws at 1:29 p.m.

Members were provided the bylaws in advance of the meeting to allow time for review

Motion by Director Ken Lawson, Second by Ron Brisé

Vote: All in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Resolved: Motion carried

V. Election of Task Force Chair and Vice Chair at 1:30 p.m.

Director Ken Lawson nominates Mr. Ron Brisé as Chair, who consented to the nomination

Vote: All in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Resolved: Motion carried, Ron Brisé is elected Chair of the task force.

There were no nominations for Vice Chair, but Director Ken Lawson offered to serve as Vice Chair

Vote: All in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Resolved: Director Lawson is elected Vice Chair of the task force.

VI. Presentation: Government in the Sunshine Training at 1:32 p.m.

Peter Penrod, Department of Financial Services General Counsel, provided the task force with a presentation on public records and public meetings requirements.

VII. Review Proposed Schedule at 1:40 p.m.

The task force plans to have monthly meetings in the upcoming 180 days for a total of 6 meetings. We anticipate that the next meeting may be a half-day meeting to allow for input from stakeholders.

VIII. Open Discussion at 1:41 p.m.

The floor was opened for additional comments from members. No additional comments were provided.

IX. Other Business & Public Testimony at 1:42 p.m.

The floor was opened for other business and public testimony. The following members of the public provided comment, which is summarized below.

Ms. Rosa Shores, Co-Founder and CEO of Blockspaces

- Advocated on behalf of blockchain technology for startups, as well as the potential uses at the state level
- Teaches blockchain courses and offered their resources to the task force

Mr. Samuel Armes, Executive Director of Florida Blockchain Business Association

- Working with Seminole County to create a digital ID
- Eager to see where the regulatory landscape surrounding blockchain will move

Mr. Jim St. Clair

- Focus on health care, social services, social welfare – as well as decentralized identity and data management
- Suggested that using blockchain for data management can be revolutionary, while adhering to the same standards that state agencies are used to

Mr. Paul Godfrey, Attorney at the Law Office of David Dougherty

- Studies and works on distributed consensus technology, and recommends that the task force works with the Florida Courts Technology Commission

X. Adjourn at 1:49 p.m.