

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-2609

HB 310, establishing a commission to study the creation of a regulatory framework for stable tokens, tokenized real-world assets, and blockchain-based trusts in New Hampshire.

Hearing Date: April 29, 2025

Time Opened: 11:11 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:19 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Innis, Ricciardi, Murphy, McGough, Fenton and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a commission to study the creation of a regulatory framework for stable tokens and tokenized real-world assets ("RWAs") in New Hampshire.

Sponsors:

Rep. Ammon

Rep. Beaulier

Rep. Warden

Rep. Alexander Jr.

Sen. Abbas

Who supports the bill: Representative Keith Ammon, Representative Tom Schamberg

Who opposes the bill: Representative Timothy Horrigan, Lee Oxenham, Paul Fiondella, Katie McLaughlin, Russell Friedman, Yonah Friedman, Madeline Boughter, Erin Simpson, Kennard Soleyn, Janet Lucas, Hannah Burgess, Karen Heaton, Ilsa Pinkson-Burke, Pamala Custer, Jack Hurley, Daniel Richardson, James Gardner, Larissa Pyer, Edward Cousineau, Evan Oxenham, John Tuthill, Hannah Smith, Heather Wilcauskas

Who is neutral on the bill: Catherine Corkery (NH Sierra Club)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Keith Ammon

- Representative Ammon disclosed that he owned digital assets, and he was Chair of the New Hampshire Blockchain Council.
- Representative Ammon said blockchain and digital asset technology could potentially become the underpinning of the world financial system.

- This bill dealt with three emerging concepts: stable tokens, real world asset tokenization, and blockchain-based trusts.
- Stable tokens are the 16th largest purchaser of U.S. treasuries. They are a digital token that represents ownership over the U.S. dollar in cash, treasuries, or anything else that is related. Their value is paid 1-to-1 to the U.S. dollar. Mastercard has begun looking to roll out stable tokens into their network.
- Real world asset tokenization is a similar concept, except assets could be gold bars in a vault or paintings in a climate-controlled storage facility.
- New Hampshire is the only state looking into the concept of blockchain-based trusts. This concept was moved into a study commission. If rules could be established, Representative Ammon said it could be an innovative new product to attract new capital.
- Wyoming has established a similar commission, the Wyoming Stable Token Commission, which is ongoing. The Chair of the Commission is the governor.
- Representative Ammon said this was an issue that required “big brains” to figure out the state’s approach to attract innovation, innovators, and capital to the state, while also protecting consumers from bad actors.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Paul Fiondella

- Mr. Fiondella said stable coins were not stable. They were an attempt to back virtual currencies with something else to turn them into a liquid asset.
- Silicon Valley Bank took investors’ capital, and they placed money into treasuries at the wrong time. They ran out of money to back the commitments of those who had deposited money into their bank. USDC was an entity that placed stable coins into the bank. It had \$3.3 billion in cash in the Silicon Valley Bank with a commitment that one coin was worth \$1. When the bank failed, the coin was reduced to 87 cents. After a certain period, they stopped allowing any conversion.
- Stable coin value is based on convertibility. The value of the stable coin is lost when convertibility is lost.
- Mr. Fiondella said cryptocurrency companies are using other cryptocurrencies to back their coin, which is a very risky situation for investors.
- Since the biggest environmental problem is energy use, Mr. Fiondella said the commission needed a representative from the environmental community with expertise in renewable energy generation.

Neutral Information Presented: None