

From: Winters, Chris
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 9:24 AM
To: 'David Hall'; 'Bill Botzow'
Cc: 'gzakov@vlct.org'; Marshall, Tanya
Subject: RE: GENERAL-#331731-v10-Amend-Commerce-S_269.docx

Hello David and Chair Botzow,

Thank you for asking for our input on section 10. The Secretary of State's office is very much interested in the potential application of blockchain technology to public records. We want to bring you back a useful product.

We do have concerns about the language for this study being too broad in scope and beyond the capabilities of the parties identified. We believe we need a concrete use case and a well-defined scope to be able to bring back a decent recommendation to the Legislature. If we narrow the focus, we can dive deeper and report with thorough recommendations on recording specific municipal transactions. This would provide insight into what other uses might be appropriate with this technology.

If we focus specifically on land records, which I think were where this came from based on South Burlington's experience, the group we have can do a great job. This group has plenty of expertise with municipal records – especially land records. However, this group does not add much in terms of state records and would be at a loss if asked to look at all other possible applications and resources for state and local government.

As such, we respectfully recommend the committee adopt the following language:

On or before January 15, 2019, the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration division of the Secretary of State's Office, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and the Vermont Clerks and Treasurers Association, shall:

- (1) evaluate blockchain technology for the systematic and efficient management of municipal public records in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 317a and 3 V.S.A. § 117;
- (2) recommend legislation, including uniform laws, necessary to support the possible use of blockchain technology for the recording of land records pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1154; and
- (3) submit their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

With this report in hand, I think the Legislature, as well as state and local government, could have a much better idea of how blockchain technology might be employed in other areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris