

1 AN ACT relating to municipal utilities.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 42.747 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

5 (a) "Blockchain technology" means shared or distributed data structures or digital
6 ledgers used in peer-to-peer networks that:

- 7 1. Store digital transactions;
8 2. Verify and secure transactions cryptographically; and
9 3. Allow automated self-execution of smart contracts;

10 (b) "Peer-to-peer networks" means computer systems that are connected to each
11 other over the Internet so that each computer system:

- 12 1. Is a client and a server simultaneously; and
13 2. Allows file sharing without use of a central server;

14 (c) "Smart contract" means a computerized transaction protocol that self-executes
15 the terms of a contract and that is integrated into the blockchain program
16 architecture; and

17 (d) "Contract" means an agreement of the parties in fact, as found in their
18 language or inferred from other circumstances, including course of
19 performance, course of dealing, or usage of trade, reached through offer and
20 mutual acceptance by the parties to be legally bound by the terms of the
21 agreement which includes valuable consideration for all parties.

22 (2) There is hereby established a Blockchain Technology Working Group which shall
23 be attached to the Commonwealth Office of Technology for administrative
24 purposes.

25 (3) The working group shall evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of using blockchain
26 technology to enhance the security of and increase protection for the state's critical
27 infrastructure, including but not limited to the electric utility grid, natural gas

1 pipelines, drinking water supply and delivery, wastewater, telecommunications, and
2 emergency services. The workgroup shall create a priority list of critical
3 infrastructure that could benefit from the use of blockchain technology and then
4 determine whether:

5 (a) Blockchain fits the distributed nature of transactions;

6 (b) The peer-to-peer network is robust enough to support the use of blockchain
7 technology;

8 (c) A cost-benefit analysis of blockchain for each case is warranted to
9 demonstrate its value, applicability, or efficiency; and

10 (d) If the parties involved in the blockchain would agree to its usage if deployed.

11 (4) The workgroup shall consist of nine (9) members, three (3) of which shall be ex
12 officio, as follows:

13 (a) The chief information officer for the Commonwealth Office of Technology or
14 his or her designee who shall serve as chair;

15 (b) The secretary for the Energy and Environment Cabinet or his or her designee;

16 (c) The chief information officer for the Finance and Administration Cabinet or
17 his or her designee;

18 (d) A representative designated by the executive director of the Kentucky Public
19 Service Commission, who has knowledge of the spatial characteristics of the
20 infrastructure used by public utilities;

21 (e) The executive director of Kentucky Department of Homeland Security or his
22 or her designee;

23 (f) One (1) member in academia designated by the chief information officer of
24 the Commonwealth Office of Technology, who has expertise in blockchain
25 technology and its applicability to different industry sectors;

26 (g) One (1) ex officio member representing municipal utilities~~[the Kentucky~~
27 ~~Municipal Utilities Association (KMUA)]~~ designated by the Kentucky

1 **League of Cities**~~[executive director of KMUA]~~;

2 (h) One (1) ex officio member representing the investor-owned electric utilities
3 designated by the executive director of the Kentucky Public Service
4 Commission; and

5 (i) One (1) ex officio member representing Kentucky electric cooperatives
6 designated by the chairman of the board of the Kentucky Association of
7 Electric Cooperatives.

8 (5) The workgroup shall be staffed by the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

9 (6) The workgroup shall report to the Governor and to the Legislative Research
10 Commission by December 1 of each year. The report shall include the current
11 priority list and a discussion of whether blockchain could be deployed, and any
12 associated cost-benefit analysis.

13 ➔Section 2. KRS 96.780 is amended to read as follows:

14 (1) After a board has been appointed and qualified, it shall have charge of the general
15 supervision and control of the acquisition, improvement, operation and maintenance
16 of the electric plant of the municipality. The board shall employ an electric plant
17 superintendent (herein called "superintendent"), who shall be qualified by training
18 and experience for the general superintendence of the acquisition, improvement and
19 operation of the electric plant. His salary shall be fixed by the board. The
20 superintendent shall be removable by the board for inefficiency, neglect of duty,
21 misfeasance, or malfeasance in office. He shall be required to execute a bond, in a
22 sum to be determined and approved by the board, conditioned upon the faithful
23 performance of his official duties. The cost of the bond may be charged as an
24 expense of the operation of the electric plant.

25 (2) Within the limits of the funds available therefor, all powers of a municipality to
26 acquire, improve, operate and maintain, and to furnish electric service, and all
27 powers necessary or convenient thereto, conferred by KRS 96.550 to 96.900, shall

1 be exercised on behalf of the municipality by the board and the superintendent,
2 respectively. Subject to the provisions of applicable bonds or contracts, the board
3 shall determine programs and make all plans for the acquisition of the electric plant,
4 shall make all determinations as to improvements, rates and financial practices, may
5 establish such rules and regulations as it deems necessary or appropriate to govern
6 the furnishing of electric service, and may disburse all moneys available in the
7 electric plant fund hereinafter established for the acquisition, improvement,
8 operation and maintenance of the electric plant and the furnishing of electric
9 service.

10 (3) A copy of the schedule of the current rates and charges in effect from time to time
11 and a copy of all rules and regulations of the board relating to electric service shall
12 be kept on public file at the main and all branch offices of the electric plant and also
13 in the office of the municipal clerk or recorder. The superintendent shall have
14 charge of all actual construction, the immediate management and operation of the
15 electric plant and the enforcement and execution of all rules, regulations, programs,
16 plans and decisions made or adopted by the board.

17 (4) The superintendent shall appoint all employees and fix their duties and
18 compensation subject to and with the approval of the board. Subject to the
19 limitations and provisions of KRS 96.550 to 96.900, the superintendent, with the
20 approval of the board, may acquire and dispose of all property, real and personal,
21 necessary to effectuate the purposes of KRS 96.550 to 96.900. The title to all
22 property purchased or acquired shall be taken in the corporate name of the board.

23 (5) The superintendent shall let all contracts, subject to the approval of the board, but
24 may, without such approval, obligate the electric plant on purchase orders up to an
25 amount to be fixed by the board, not to exceed **forty thousand dollars**
26 **(\$40,000)**~~twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)]~~. All contracts shall be in the
27 corporate name of the board and shall be signed by the superintendent and attested

1 by the secretary-treasurer or chairman of the board. The superintendent shall make
2 and keep or cause to be made and kept full and proper books and records, subject to
3 the supervision and direction of the board, and the provisions of applicable
4 contracts.

5 ➔Section 3. KRS 224A.030 is amended to read as follows:

- 6 (1) There is hereby created the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, which authority
7 shall be a body corporate and politic, constituting a public corporation and a
8 governmental agency and instrumentality of the state. The affairs of the authority
9 shall be managed and carried out by a board consisting of eleven (11) members.
10 The secretaries of the Economic Development, Finance and Administration, and
11 Energy and Environment Cabinets; the executive director of the Public Service
12 Commission; and the commissioner of the Department for Local Government shall
13 serve as ex officio members of the authority. The secretaries, the executive director,
14 and the commissioner may designate alternates. The Governor shall additionally
15 appoint six (6) at-large members. One (1) member shall be selected from a list of
16 three (3) nominees submitted by the Kentucky Association of Counties, **two (2)**
17 **members**~~[one (1) member]~~ selected from a list of **six (6)**~~[three (3)]~~ nominees
18 submitted by the Kentucky League of Cities, **one (1) of whom shall represent a**
19 **municipal utility that provides water and wastewater service**, one (1) member
20 selected from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Kentucky Rural Water
21 Association, one (1) member representing for-profit private water companies, **and**
22 one (1) member selected from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the
23 Kentucky section of the American Water Works Association~~[, and one (1) member~~
24 ~~selected from a list of three (3) nominees submitted by the Kentucky Municipal~~
25 ~~Utilities Association]~~. As the terms of the at-large members expire, the Governor
26 shall appoint successors for terms of four (4) years and until their successors are
27 appointed. The members shall constitute the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority,

1 with power in that name to contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, have
2 and use a corporate seal, and exercise, in addition to the powers and functions
3 specifically stated in this chapter, all of the usual powers of private corporations to
4 the extent that the powers are not inconsistent with specifically enumerated powers
5 of the authority. In the carrying out of its purposes and the exercise by it of the
6 powers conferred by this chapter, the authority is deemed and declared to be
7 performing essential governmental functions and public purposes of the state.

8 (2) The members of the authority shall receive no compensation for their services in
9 their official capacity but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable
10 expenses necessarily incurred in connection with performance of their duties and
11 functions as authority members.

12 (3) Six (6) members of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
13 business, and in the absence of a quorum, one (1) or more members may adjourn
14 from time to time until a quorum is convened. The members of the authority shall
15 choose from their ranks a chair and a vice chair. The authority shall elect a secretary
16 and a treasurer who shall not be members of the authority, each of whom shall serve
17 at the pleasure of the authority and shall receive compensation as may be
18 determined by the authority.

19 (4) (a) The authority shall, for administrative purposes, be attached to the
20 Department for Local Government, which shall provide any office space
21 required by the authority.

22 (b) The secretary of the authority shall at all times maintain therein complete
23 records of all of the authority's actions and proceedings which shall constitute
24 public records open to inspection at all reasonable times.