



FORMAL TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 0051

TO: Members of the House Economic Matters

FROM: Jacqueline Cooper, CEO, on behalf of the Maryland Blockchain Association

DATE: February 3, 2026

RE: SUPPORT – HB 0051 Strategic Digital Asset Reserve Act of Maryland

Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jacqueline Cooper, CEO, and I am writing on behalf of the [Maryland Blockchain Association](#) to express our strong support for **HB 0051**, the Strategic Digital Asset Reserve Act of Maryland.

This legislation is a forward-thinking, fiscally responsible measure that positions Maryland as a national leader in the digital economy. By establishing a framework for the State to hold and manage digital assets, Maryland is not only protecting its future purchasing power but also signaling that our state is open for 21st-century innovation.

There are three primary reasons why this bill is essential for Maryland:

1. Strategic Fiscal Resilience The creation of a Strategic Digital Asset Reserve Fund allows the State to diversify its holdings with decentralized assets that have a market capitalization exceeding \$500 billion. Historically, assets like Bitcoin have served as a powerful hedge against inflation and monetary instability. By authorizing the Treasurer to manage these assets, the State creates a "digital gold" reserve that can enhance our long-term financial stability.

2. Innovative Utilization of Seized Assets HB 0051 wisely directs funds seized and forfeited from illegal gambling operations into this reserve. Rather than merely absorbing these funds into the general pool, this bill allows the State to convert "ill-gotten" gains into productive,

appreciating assets. This is a budget-neutral way to capitalize the reserve without additional burden on Maryland taxpayers.

3. Attracting the Workforce of the Future As we prepare for the **2026 Maryland Blockchain Bootcamp & Hackathon (July 13th to July 17th)**, we are seeing a surge of interest from students and businesses looking for a tech-friendly jurisdiction. Passing this bill sends a clear message to founders, developers, and investors: Maryland understands the underlying technology of the "Modern Economy" and is committed to being its primary hub on the East Coast.

Conclusion Maryland has a choice: we can react to the digital asset revolution as it happens, or we can lead it. The Strategic Digital Asset Reserve Act is a vital step toward a more resilient and innovative Maryland. We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 0051.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Cooper, Esq. MA LDT, BMM, CCI, NBCT & CEO

Maryland Blockchain Association www.marylandblockchainassociation.org