As Introduced

135th General Assembly Regular Session 2023-2024

S. B. No. 317

Senator Antani

A BILL

To amend sections 9.16, 145.11, 742.11, 3307.15,	1
3309.15, and 5505.06 and to enact sections	2
3345.161 and 5703.83 of the Revised Code to	3
permit payment of state and local taxes and	4
other government fees with cryptocurrency and to	5
address investments in cryptocurrency by state	6
colleges and universities and the state	7
retirement systems.	8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 9.16, 145.11, 742.11, 3307.15,	9
3309.15, and 5505.06 be amended and sections 3345.161 and	10
5703.83 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	11
Sec. 9.16. (A) As used in this section:	12
(1) "Governmental entity" means the state or a political	13
subdivision.	14
(2) "Political subdivision" has the same meaning as in	15
section 9.48 of the Revised Code.	16
(3) "State" has the same meaning as in section 2744.01 of	17
the Revised Code.	18

(B) A governmental entity may utilize distributed ledger technology, including blockchain technology, in the exercise of its authority.

(C) A governmental entity shall accept cryptocurrency, as approved by the tax commissioner under section 5703.83 of the Revised Code, for the payment of any tax, fee, cost, charge, assessment, fine, or other payment of expense owed to the governmental entity. The governmental entity may require the payer to pay any service fees associated with the cryptocurrency transaction.

Sec. 145.11. (A) The members of the public employees 29 retirement board shall be the trustees of the funds created by 30 section 145.23 of the Revised Code. The board shall have full 31 power to invest the funds. The board and other fiduciaries shall 32 discharge their duties with respect to the funds solely in the 33 interest of the participants and beneficiaries; for the 34 exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and 35 their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of 36 administering the public employees retirement system; with care, 37 skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then 38 prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and 39 familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an 40 enterprise of a like character and with like aims; and by 41 diversifying the investments of the system so as to minimize the 42 risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is 43 clearly prudent not to do so. 44

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the45board from investing in cryptocurrency as defined in section465703.83 of the Revised Code.47

To facilitate investment of the funds, the board may

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establish a partnership, trust, limited liability company, corporation, including a corporation exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as amended, or any other legal entity authorized to transact business in this state.

(B) In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with 54 respect to the investment of the funds, it shall be the intent 55 of the board to give consideration to investments that enhance 56 the general welfare of the state and its citizens where the 57 investments offer quality, return, and safety comparable to 58 59 other investments currently available to the board. In fulfilling this intent, equal consideration shall also be given 60 to investments otherwise qualifying under this section that 61 involve minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and 62 controlled by women, either alone or in joint venture with other 63 firms. 64

The board shall adopt, in regular meeting, policies, 65 objectives, or criteria for the operation of the investment 66 program that include asset allocation targets and ranges, risk 67 factors, asset class benchmarks, time horizons, total return 68 objectives, and performance evaluation guidelines. In adopting 69 policies and criteria for the selection of agents with whom the 70 board may contract for the administration of the funds, the 71 board shall comply with sections 145.114 and 145.116 of the 72 Revised Code and shall also give equal consideration to minority 73 owned and controlled firms, firms owned and controlled by women, 74 and ventures involving minority owned and controlled firms and 75 firms owned and controlled by women that otherwise meet the 76 policies and criteria established by the board. Amendments and 77 additions to the policies and criteria shall be adopted in 78 regular meeting. The board shall publish its policies, 79

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objectives, and criteria under this provision no less often than annually and shall make copies available to interested parties.

When reporting on the performance of investments, the board shall comply with the performance presentation standards established by the association for investment management and research.

(C) All investments shall be purchased at current market prices and the evidences of title of the investments shall be placed in the hands of the treasurer of state, who is hereby designated as custodian thereof, or in the hands of the treasurer of state's authorized agent. Evidences of title of the investments so purchased may be deposited by the treasurer of state for safekeeping with an authorized agent, selected by the treasurer of state, who is a qualified trustee under section 135.18 of the Revised Code. The treasurer of state or the agent shall collect the principal, dividends, distributions, and interest thereon as they become due and payable and place them when so collected into the custodial funds.

The treasurer of state shall pay for investments purchased 98 by the retirement board on receipt of written or electronic 99 instructions from the board or the board's designated agent 100 authorizing the purchase and pending receipt of the evidence of 101 title of the investment by the treasurer of state or the 102 treasurer of state's authorized agent. The board may sell 103 investments held by the board, and the treasurer of state or the 104 treasurer of state's authorized agent shall accept payment from 105 the purchaser and deliver evidence of title of the investment to 106 the purchaser on receipt of written or electronic instructions 107 from the board or the board's designated agent authorizing the 108 sale, and pending receipt of the moneys for the investments. The 109

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amount received shall be placed in the custodial funds. The110board and the treasurer of state may enter into agreements to111establish procedures for the purchase and sale of investments112under this division and the custody of the investments.113

(D) No purchase or sale of any investment shall be made
under this section except as authorized by the public employees
retirement board.

(E) Any statement of financial position distributed by the
board shall include the fair value, as of the statement date, of
all investments held by the board under this section.

Sec. 742.11. (A) The members of the board of trustees of 120 the Ohio police and fire pension fund shall be the trustees of 121 the funds created by section 742.59 of the Revised Code. The 122 board shall have full power to invest the funds. The board and 123 other fiduciaries shall discharge their duties with respect to 124 the funds solely in the interest of the participants and 125 beneficiaries; for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits 126 to participants and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable 127 expenses of administering the Ohio police and fire pension fund; 128 with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the 129 circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a 130 like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the 131 conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims; 132 and by diversifying the investments of the disability and 133 pension fund so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless 134 under the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so. 135

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the	136
board from investing in cryptocurrency as defined in section	137
5703.83 of the Revised Code.	138

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To facilitate investment of the funds, the board may 139 establish a partnership, trust, limited liability company, 140 corporation, including a corporation exempt from taxation under 141 the Internal Revenue Code, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 1, as 142 amended, or any other legal entity authorized to transact 143 business in this state. 144

(B) In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with 145 respect to the investment of the funds, it shall be the intent 146 of the board to give consideration to investments that enhance 147 the general welfare of the state and its citizens where the 148 investments offer quality, return, and safety comparable to 149 other investments currently available to the board. In 150 fulfilling this intent, equal consideration shall be given to 151 investments otherwise qualifying under this section that involve 152 minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and 153 controlled by women, either alone or in joint venture with other 154 firms. 155

The board shall adopt, in regular meeting, policies, 156 objectives, or criteria for the operation of the investment 157 program that include asset allocation targets and ranges, risk 158 factors, asset class benchmarks, time horizons, total return 159 objectives, and performance evaluation guidelines. In adopting 160 policies and criteria for the selection of agents with whom the 161 board may contract for the administration of the funds, the 162 board shall comply with sections 742.114 and 742.116 of the 163 Revised Code and shall also give equal consideration to minority 164 owned and controlled firms, firms owned and controlled by women, 165 and joint ventures involving minority owned and controlled firms 166 and firms owned and controlled by women that otherwise meet the 167 policies and criteria established by the board. Amendments and 168 additions to the policies and criteria shall be adopted in 169

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regular meeting. The board shall publish its policies, 170 objectives, and criteria under this provision no less often than 171 annually and shall make copies available to interested parties. 172

When reporting on the performance of investments, the173board shall comply with the performance presentation standards174established by the association for investment management and175research.176

(C) All bonds, notes, certificates, stocks, or other 177 evidences of investments purchased by the board shall be 178 delivered to the treasurer of state, who is hereby designated as 179 custodian thereof, or to the treasurer of state's authorized 180 agent, and the treasurer of state or the agent shall collect the 181 principal, interest, dividends, and distributions that become 182 due and payable and place them when so collected into the 183 custodial funds. Evidences of title of the investments may be 184 deposited by the treasurer of state for safekeeping with an 185 authorized agent, selected by the treasurer of state, who is a 186 qualified trustee under section 135.18 of the Revised Code. The 187 treasurer of state shall pay for the investments purchased by 188 the board on receipt of written or electronic instructions from 189 the board or the board's designated agent authorizing the 190 purchase and pending receipt of the evidence of title of the 191 investment by the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's 192 authorized agent. The board may sell investments held by the 193 board, and the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's 194 authorized agent shall accept payment from the purchaser and 195 deliver evidence of title of the investment to the purchaser on 196 receipt of written or electronic instructions from the board or 197 the board's designated agent authorizing the sale, and pending 198 receipt of the moneys for the investments. The amount received 199 shall be placed into the custodial funds. The board and the 200

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treasurer of state may enter into agreements to establish201procedures for the purchase and sale of investments under this202division and the custody of the investments.203

(D) All of the board's business shall be transacted, all 204 its funds shall be invested, all warrants for money drawn and 205 payments shall be made, and all of its cash, securities, and 206 other property shall be held, in the name of the board or its 207 nominee, provided that nominees are authorized by board 208 resolution for the purpose of facilitating the ownership and 209 transfer of investments. 210

(E) No purchase or sale of any investment shall be made under this section except as authorized by the board of trustees of the Ohio police and fire pension fund.

(F) Any statement of financial position distributed by the board shall include the fair value, as of the statement date, of all investments held by the board under this section.

Sec. 3307.15. (A) The members of the state teachers 217 retirement board shall be the trustees of the funds created by 218 section 3307.14 of the Revised Code. The board shall have full 219 power to invest the funds. The board and other fiduciaries shall 220 discharge their duties with respect to the funds solely in the 221 interest of the participants and beneficiaries; for the 222 223 exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of 224 administering the system; with care, skill, prudence, and 225 diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent 226 person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters 227 would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character 228 and with like aims; and by diversifying the investments of the 229 system so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under 230

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the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so. 231

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the	232
board from investing in cryptocurrency as defined in section	233
5703.83 of the Revised Code.	234

To facilitate investment of the funds, the board may establish a partnership, trust, limited liability company, corporation, including a corporation exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as amended, or any other legal entity authorized to transact business in this state.

(B) In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with respect to the investment of the funds, it shall be the intent of the board to give consideration to investments that enhance the general welfare of the state and its citizens where the investments offer quality, return, and safety comparable to other investments currently available to the board. In fulfilling this intent, equal consideration shall also be given to investments otherwise qualifying under this section that involve minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and controlled by women, either alone or in joint venture with other firms.

The board shall adopt, in regular meeting, policies, 252 objectives, or criteria for the operation of the investment 253 program that include asset allocation targets and ranges, risk 254 factors, asset class benchmarks, time horizons, total return 255 objectives, and performance evaluation guidelines. In adopting 256 policies and criteria for the selection of agents with whom the 257 board may contract for the administration of the funds, the 258 board shall comply with sections 3307.152 and 3307.154 of the 259 Revised Code and shall also give equal consideration to minority 260

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owned and controlled firms, firms owned and controlled by women, 261 and ventures involving minority owned and controlled firms and 262 firms owned and controlled by women that otherwise meet the 263 policies and criteria established by the board. Amendments and 264 additions to the policies and criteria shall be adopted in 265 regular meeting. The board shall publish its policies, 266 objectives, and criteria under this provision no less often than 267 annually and shall make copies available to interested parties. 268

When reporting on the performance of investments, the board shall comply with the performance presentation standards established by the CFA institute.

(C) All bonds, notes, certificates, stocks, or other 272 evidences of investments purchased by the board shall be 273 delivered to the treasurer of state, who is hereby designated as 274 custodian thereof, or to the treasurer of state's authorized 275 agent, and the treasurer of state or the agent shall collect the 276 principal, interest, dividends, and distributions that become 277 due and payable and place them when so collected into the 278 custodial funds. Evidences of title of the investments may be 279 280 deposited by the treasurer of state for safekeeping with an 281 authorized agent, selected by the treasurer of state, who is a qualified trustee under section 135.18 of the Revised Code. The 282 treasurer of state shall pay for the investments purchased by 283 the board on receipt of written or electronic instructions from 284 the board or the board's designated agent authorizing the 285 purchase and pending receipt of the evidence of title of the 286 investment by the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's 287 authorized agent. The board may sell investments held by the 288 board, and the treasurer of state or the treasurer of state's 289 authorized agent shall accept payment from the purchaser and 290 deliver evidence of title of the investment to the purchaser on 291

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receipt of written or electronic instructions from the board or 292 the board's designated agent authorizing the sale, and pending 293 receipt of the moneys for the investments. The amount received 294 shall be placed into the custodial funds. The board and the 295 treasurer of state may enter into agreements to establish 296 procedures for the purchase and sale of investments under this 297 division and the custody of the investments. 298

(D) No purchase or sale of any investment shall be made299under this section except as authorized by the board.300

(E) Any statement of financial position distributed by the
board shall include the fair value, as of the statement date, of
all investments held by the board under this section.

304 Sec. 3309.15. (A) The members of the school employees retirement board shall be the trustees of the funds created by 305 section 3309.60 of the Revised Code. The board shall have full 306 power to invest the funds. The board and other fiduciaries shall 307 discharge their duties with respect to the funds solely in the 308 interest of the participants and beneficiaries; for the 309 exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and 310 their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of 311 administering the school employees retirement system; with care, 312 skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then 313 prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and 314 familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an 315 enterprise of a like character and with like aims; and by 316 diversifying the investments of the system so as to minimize the 317 risk of large losses, unless under the circumstances it is 318 clearly prudent not to do so. 319

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the320board from investing in cryptocurrency as defined in section321

5703.83 of the Revised Code.

The board may establish a partnership, trust, limited liability company, corporation, including a corporation exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 1, as amended, or any other legal entity authorized to transact business in this state.

(B) In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with 328 respect to the investment of the funds, it shall be the intent 329 of the board to give consideration to investments that enhance 330 the general welfare of the state and its citizens where the 331 investments offer quality, return, and safety comparable to 332 other investments currently available to the board. In 333 fulfilling this intent, equal consideration shall also be given 334 to investments otherwise qualifying under this section that 335 involve minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and 336 controlled by women, either alone or in joint venture with other 337 firms. 338

The board shall adopt, in regular meeting, policies, 339 objectives, or criteria for the operation of the investment 340 program that include asset allocation targets and ranges, risk 341 factors, asset class benchmarks, time horizons, total return 342 objectives, and performance evaluation guidelines. In adopting 343 policies and criteria for the selection of agents with whom the 344 board may contract for the administration of the funds, the 345 board shall comply with sections 3309.157 and 3309.159 of the 346 Revised Code and shall also give equal consideration to minority 347 owned and controlled firms, firms owned and controlled by women, 348 and ventures involving minority owned and controlled firms and 349 firms owned and controlled by women that otherwise meet the 350 policies and criteria established by the board. Amendments and 351

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additions to the policies and criteria shall be adopted in352regular meeting. The board shall publish its policies,353objectives, and criteria under this provision no less often than354annually and shall make copies available to interested parties.355

If the board contracts with a person, including an agent356or investment manager, for the management or investment of the357funds, the board shall require the person to comply with the358global investment performance standards established by the359chartered financial analyst institute, or a successor360organization, when reporting on the performance of investments.361

(C) All evidences of title of investments purchased by the 362 board under this section shall be delivered to the treasurer of 363 state, who is hereby designated as custodian thereof, or to the 364 treasurer of state's authorized agent, and the treasurer of 365 state or the agent shall collect principal, interest, dividends, 366 and distributions that become due and payable and place the same 367 when so collected into the custodial funds. Evidences of title 368 of the investments may be deposited by the treasurer of state 369 for safekeeping with an authorized agent, selected by the 370 treasurer of state, who is a qualified trustee under section 371 135.18 of the Revised Code. The treasurer of state shall pay for 372 the investments purchased by the board pending receipt of the 373 evidence of title of the investments by the treasurer of state 374 or to the treasurer of state's authorized agent, and on receipt 375 of written or electronic instructions from the board or the 376 board's designated agent authorizing the purchase. The board may 377 sell any investments held by the board, and the treasurer of 378 state or the treasurer of state's authorized agent shall accept 379 payment from the purchaser and deliver evidence of title of the 380 investment to the purchaser on receipt of written or electronic 381 instructions from the board or the board's designated agent 382 authorizing the sale, and pending receipt of the moneys for the383investments. The amount received shall be placed into the384custodial funds. The board and the treasurer of state may enter385into agreements to establish procedures for the purchase and386sale of investments under this division and the custody of the387investment.388

(D) No purchase or sale of any investment shall be made
 under this section except as authorized by the school employees
 retirement board.
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(E) Any statement of financial position distributed by the
board shall include the fair value, as of the statement date, of
all investments held by the board under this section.

Sec. 3345.161. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed395to prohibit the board of trustees of a state university, as396defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, from investing397in cryptocurrency, as defined in section 5703.83 of the Revised398Code.399

Sec. 5505.06. (A) The members of the state highway patrol 400 retirement board shall be the trustees of the funds created by 401 section 5505.03 of the Revised Code. The board shall have full 402 power to invest the funds. The board and other fiduciaries shall 403 discharge their duties with respect to the funds solely in the 404 interest of the participants and beneficiaries; for the 405 exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and 406 their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of 407 administering the system; with care, skill, prudence, and 408 diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent 409 person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters 410 would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character 411 and with like aims; and by diversifying the investments of the 412 system so as to minimize the risk of large losses, unless under413the circumstances it is clearly prudent not to do so.414Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the415board from investing in cryptocurrency as defined in section4165703.83 of the Revised Code.417

To facilitate investment of the funds, the board may 418 establish a partnership, trust, limited liability company, 419 corporation, including a corporation exempt from taxation under 420 the Internal Revenue Code, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. 1, as 421 amended, or any other legal entity authorized to transact 422 business in this state. 423

(B) In exercising its fiduciary responsibility with 424 respect to the investment of the funds, it shall be the intent 425 of the board to give consideration to investments that enhance 426 the general welfare of the state and its citizens where the 427 investments offer quality, return, and safety comparable to 428 other investments currently available to the board. In 429 fulfilling this intent, equal consideration shall be given to 430 investments otherwise qualifying under this section that involve 431 minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and 432 controlled by women, either alone or in joint venture with other 433 firms. 434

The board shall adopt, in regular meeting, policies, 435 objectives, or criteria for the operation of the investment 436 program that include asset allocation targets and ranges, risk 437 factors, asset class benchmarks, time horizons, total return 438 objectives, and performance evaluation guidelines. In adopting 439 policies and criteria for the selection of agents with whom the 440 board may contract for the administration of the funds, the 441 board shall comply with sections <u>5505.062</u><u>5505.068</u> and <u>5505.064</u> 442

5505.0610 of the Revised Code and shall also give equal 443 consideration to minority owned and controlled firms, firms 444 owned and controlled by women, and joint ventures involving 445 minority owned and controlled firms and firms owned and 446 controlled by women that otherwise meet the policies and 447 criteria established by the board. Amendments and additions to 448 the policies and criteria shall be adopted in regular meeting. 449 The board shall publish its policies, objectives, and criteria 450 under this provision no less often than annually and shall make 451 copies available to interested parties. 452

When reporting on the performance of investments, the453board shall comply with the performance presentation standards454established by the association for investment management and455research.456

(C) All evidences of title of the investments purchased by 457 the board shall be delivered to the treasurer of state, who is 458 hereby designated as the custodian thereof, or to the treasurer 459 of state's authorized agent. Evidences of title of the 460 investments may be deposited by the treasurer of state for 461 safekeeping with an authorized agent, selected by the treasurer 462 of state, who is a qualified trustee under section 135.18 of the 463 Revised Code. The treasurer of state shall collect the 464 principal, interest, dividends, and distributions that become 465 due and payable and, when collected, shall credit them to the 466 custodial funds. 467

The treasurer of state shall pay for the investments468purchased by the board on receipt of written or electronic469instructions from the board or the board's designated agent470authorizing the purchase and pending receipt of the evidence of471title of the investment by the treasurer of state or the472

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treasurer of state's authorized agent. The board may sell 473 investments held by the board, and the treasurer of state or the 474 treasurer of state's authorized agent shall accept payment from 475 the purchaser and deliver evidence of title of the investment to 476 the purchaser on receipt of written or electronic instructions 477 from the board or the board's designated agent authorizing the 478 sale, and pending receipt of the moneys for the investments. The 479 amount received shall be placed in the custodial funds. The 480 board and the treasurer of state may enter into agreements to 481 establish procedures for the purchase and sale of investments 482 under this division and the custody of the investments. 483

(D) All of the board's business shall be transacted, all
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its funds shall be invested, all warrants for money drawn and
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payments shall be made, and all of its cash, securities, and
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other property shall be held, in the name of the board or its
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nominee, provided that nominees are authorized by board
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resolution for the purpose of facilitating the ownership and
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transfer of investments.

(E) No purchase or sale of any investment shall be madeunder this section except as authorized by the board.492

(F) Any statement of financial position distributed by the
board shall include the fair value, as of the statement date, of
all investments held by the board under this section.

Sec. 5703.83. (A) As used in this section,496"cryptocurrency" means a digital representation of value that497functions as a medium of exchange, unit of account, or store of498value, which may be bought, sold, or traded securely, in which499the generation of units is regulated, transactions are verified,500and records are maintained by a decentralized system using501cryptography, such as blockchain or similar distributed ledger502

technology, and for which there is a reasonable expectation that	503
it will maintain a stable value relative to a fixed amount of	504
monetary value. "Cryptocurrency" does not include a national	505
currency.	506
(B) The tax commissioner, on or before the thirtieth day	507
of June of each year, shall approve and publish on the	508
department of taxation's web site a list of cryptocurrencies	509
acceptable for the payment of any tax, fee, cost, charge,	510
assessment, fine, or other payment of expense under section 9.16	511
of the Revised Code.	512
Section 2. That existing sections 9.16, 145.11, 742.11,	513
3307.15, 3309.15, and 5505.06 of the Revised Code are hereby	514
repealed.	515
Section 3. Notwithstanding section 5703.83 of the Revised	516
Code, as enacted by this act, the Tax Commissioner shall approve	517
and publish on the Department of Taxation's web site the initial	518
list described in section 5703.83 of the Revised Code within six	519
months after the effective date of this section.	520

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