

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

H.7413: Rhode Island Economic Growth Blockchain Act

An Act Relating to Financial Institutions — Blockchain Innovation

Rhode Island Bitcoin Policy Initiative | June 2026

Sponsor	Representative Place
Introduced	January 30, 2026
Referred to	House Corporations Committee
Status (Jun 6, 2026)	Heard February 3, 2026; held for further study
Builds on	2025 Session H.5564
Key features	Regulatory sandbox plus Special Purpose Depository Institution (SPDI) charter

What this bill does

H.7413 creates two complementary frameworks. The first is a Department of Business Regulation–administered regulatory sandbox under which blockchain and digital asset companies may test innovative financial products under temporary regulatory relief. The second is a new Special Purpose Depository Institution (SPDI) charter for digital asset businesses, requiring 100% liquid reserves against deposits. The bill builds on Wyoming's 2019 SPDI framework and Nebraska's 2021 Digital Asset Depository Institution Act.

Fiscal impact at a glance

Metric	Year 1	Year 5
DBR regulatory costs	\$350K – \$500K	\$200K – \$350K
Fee revenue (sandbox + SPDI)	\$100K – \$250K	\$800K – \$2.0M
Net direct fiscal impact	–\$250K to –\$350K	+\$450K to +\$1.65M

Key provisions

- **Regulatory sandbox.** Two-year testing period under DBR oversight with reduced regulatory burden, but baseline AML, fraud, and disclosure protections preserved.
- **SPDI charter.** New state-chartered bank category with 100% liquid reserves (no fractional reserve banking). Fees: \$50K–\$100K application; tiered annual examination.
- **Consumer protection floor.** Sandbox participants must comply with anti-money-laundering, fraud, and disclosure requirements regardless of other relief.

- **Federal coordination.** SPDIs may seek Federal Reserve master account access; legislators should understand this is subject to federal discretion outside RI control.

Why RIBPI strongly supports this

Wyoming and Nebraska are currently the only states offering SPDI charters. Wyoming has approved four (Kraken Financial, Custodia, WDT, Commercium); Nebraska approved its first (Telcoin) in November 2025. No New England state offers an equivalent. Rhode Island's existing virtual currency licensing capacity at DBR substantially reduces ramp-up cost relative to Wyoming's greenfield experience. The 100% reserve requirement also limits the state's exposure to bank failure risk.

Recommendation

RIBPI recommends passage subject to (1) a five-year sunset review tied to a DBR utilization report, (2) a dedicated FY27 appropriation of \$400–500K for SPDI program startup with subsequent years funded primarily from fee revenue, and (3) an annual public SPDI program report.

The full Fiscal Impact Analysis (16 pages) is available at ribpi.com/research, with detailed methodology, comparative state analysis, and sources.

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End of Report