

Senate Reviews Trump's CFTC Nominee as Crypto Bill Looms

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The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee is preparing to consider President Donald Trump's nominee, Brian Quintenz, for Chairman and Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), in a move that could reshape crypto regulation nationwide.

Brian Quintenz, a former CFTC commissioner and Trump's nominee for Chairman, is set to face questioning from the Senate Agriculture Committee as lawmakers weigh the Digital

Asset Market Clarity (CLARITY) Act, which could grant his agency expanded authority over the cryptocurrency market. The proposed Digital Asset Market Clarity (CLARITY) Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives on 17 July 2025 with bipartisan support and now awaits action in the Senate.

Currently, cryptocurrency regulation in the United States is largely shared between the CFTC and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), often leading to overlapping or unclear jurisdiction. The CLARITY Act would streamline oversight by granting the CFTC primary authority, signalling a more market-friendly approach favoured by many in the financial sector.

If confirmed, Quintenz could become the only active commissioner at the CFTC, as acting Chair Caroline Pham and Commissioner Kristin Johnson are both expected to step down by the end of 2025. Trump has yet to name additional nominees for the panel, which typically operates with five members.

The Senate Agriculture Committee's meeting follows an initial hearing held on 10 June 2025 and could lead to a full Senate vote on Quintenz's confirmation as early as the week following the committee session. His return to the commission would mark a critical moment for U.S. crypto policy, especially if the CLARITY Act becomes law.

Supporters of the legislation argue that the CFTC, with its experience regulating derivatives and commodities markets, is better positioned to provide consistent rules for digital assets. "The CFTC stands ready to fulfil our mission and oversee markets that enable U.S. economic growth and competitiveness," said Acting Chair Pham in a recent statement, crediting Trump for advancing the effort.

Though the bill's passage in the House was a major step, questions remain about its path in the Senate. Lawmakers have until October to finalise the legislation, with any amendments likely to shape how the balance of power between the CFTC and SEC will ultimately be drawn.

Quintenz, a Republican with a history of advocating for innovation in financial markets, is expected to embrace a principles-based regulatory framework, an approach that many believe will promote responsible crypto development without excessive federal interference.