

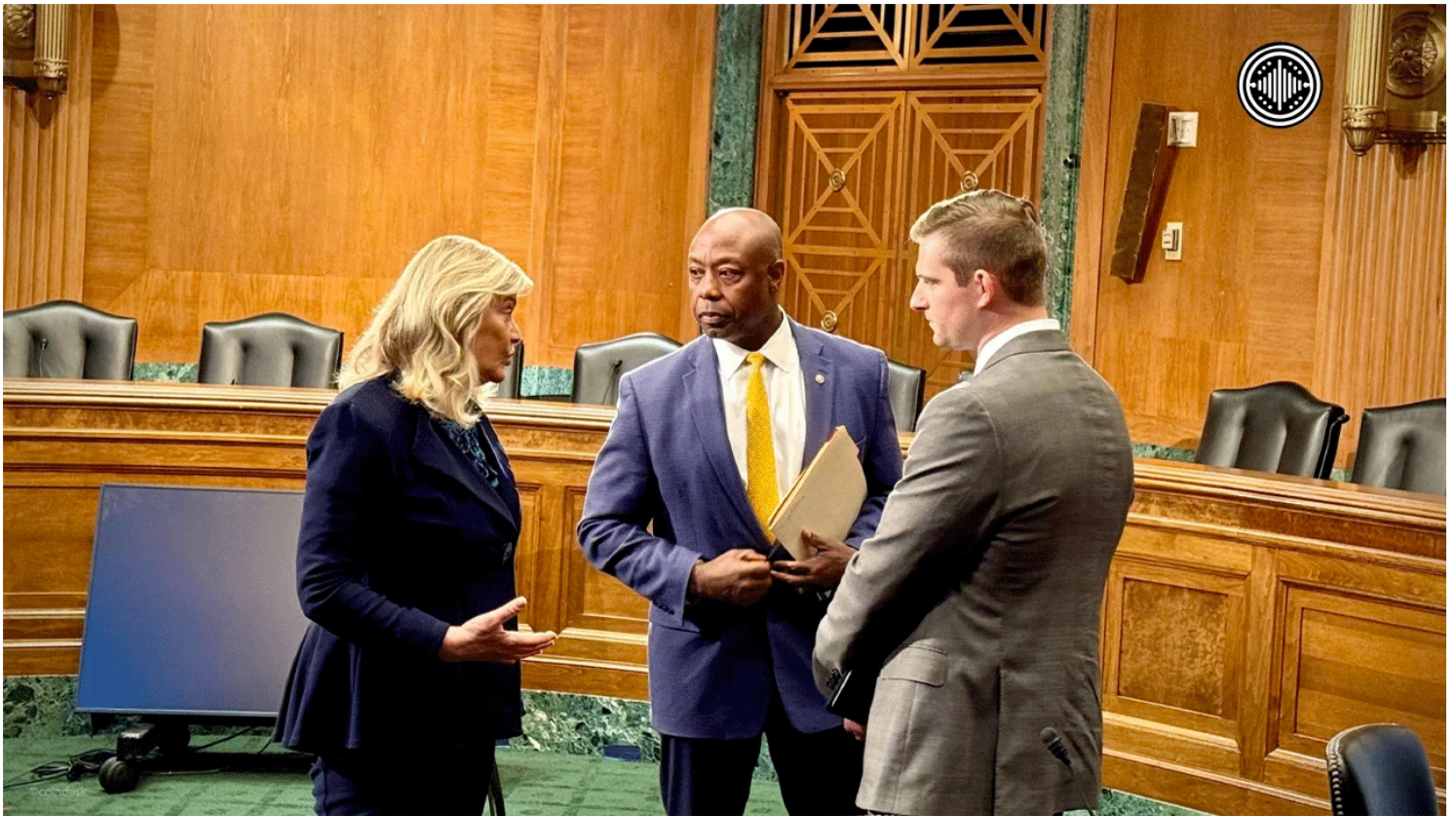
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Crypto Reform Hits Roadblock as House Vote Stalls Pro-Digital Asset Legislation

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Despite a declared “Crypto Week” by House Republicans, several major cryptocurrency reform bills were blocked in Congress on Tuesday, revealing internal GOP fractures and partisan resistance from Democrats. The vote’s failure casts uncertainty on the future of digital asset legislation in Washington.

On July 14, a procedural vote aimed at advancing key digital finance bills, including the **Creating Legal Accountability for Rogue Innovators and Technology (CLARITY) Act** and the **Guiding the Emerging New Innovations for Unleashing Success (GENIUS) Act**, fell

short, with 223 lawmakers opposing and only 196 in favor. These bills were expected to provide much-needed regulatory structure around cryptocurrency, enhance market transparency, and strengthen innovation within the U.S. financial sector.

However, momentum stalled after members of the House Freedom Caucus, a coalition of conservative Republicans, opposed the bills. Their concern centered on the legislation's lack of firm opposition to **Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs)**, state-controlled digital currencies that many conservatives fear could open the door to surveillance and centralized control over private financial activity.

"This wasn't just about crypto," a House aide told *The Hill*. "There's a bigger issue here: We're not interested in paving the way for a government-controlled digital dollar that undermines individual privacy and financial freedom."

The failed vote was particularly surprising given that former President Donald Trump had publicly backed the effort. In a Truth Social post just hours before the vote, Trump urged Republicans to pass the crypto-focused measures, calling it "our moment" to lead the world in digital innovation and tie it to his larger "Make America Great Again" platform.

Still, opposition from the Democratic side remained firm. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, characterized the GOP's push as dangerous and aligned with what she described as Trump's "crypto scam." Waters, alongside Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), issued a joint statement labeling the legislation as a threat to consumer protections and national security.

Critics on the left argue that the Republican-backed bills serve corporate interests and lack sufficient regulatory oversight. They dubbed the same legislative window "Anti-Crypto Corruption Week" in a clear counter-narrative, reinforcing the widening political gulf around financial innovation.

With no immediate path forward, the future of crypto regulation in the U.S. hangs in limbo. What was pitched as a turning point for the digital economy turned instead into a cautionary tale about partisan divides, unresolved internal GOP disagreements, and the challenge of crafting forward-looking financial policy in an election year.

If there's any takeaway, it's that a bipartisan consensus remains elusive on even the most modern financial issues, especially when central control and innovation collide.