

Banking and Finance Law Daily Wrap Up, FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM— House Majority Whip reintroduces legislation to ban central bank digital currency, (Mar. 7, 2025)

Banking and Finance Law Daily Wrap Up

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By Joe Cox, J.D.

Representative Emmer previously introduced similar legislation in 2022 and now seeks to codify an Executive Order against issuance of a CBDC.

House of Representatives Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-Minn.) announced the reintroduction of his [Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act](#). The bill seeks to ban the issuance of a central bank digital currency, which Emmer charges in a [press release](#) "could give the federal government the ability to surveil Americans' transactions and choke out politically unpopular activity." Emmer previously brought forward similar legislation in 2022, which passed the House, but was not enacted. Efforts again arose in 2024, but Emmer's comments suggest that he is attempting to ride the coattails of an Executive Order from President Trump which disapproved of CBDCs.

History of the proposed legislation. Representative Emmer has championed various versions of this legislation as far back as 2022. In a statement in 2023, he noted, "Any digital version of the dollar must uphold our American values of privacy, individual sovereignty and free market competitiveness. Anything less opens the door to the development of a dangerous surveillance tool." (See [Banking and Finance Law Daily](#), Feb. 24, 2023).

Even within his own press release, Emmer was careful to distinguish the CBDC from decentralized cryptocurrencies, which the present administration has supported to a level previously unseen.

Purpose of the legislation. Emmer clarified in his press release that the proposed legislation is intended to prevent the Federal Reserve from issuing a CBDC directly to individuals, which Emmer charges could allow the Fed to "mobilize itself into a retail bank with the ability to collect personal financial data on Americans." Congressional authorization would be required, under the Act, for a CBDC to be issued.

The bill also expands previous versions of itself (such as the 2022 version) by mandating that a Federal Reserve bank may not offer any products or services directly to an individual.

Support for the bill. Congressman Bryan Steil (R-Wis.), who joined with Emmer in introducing the Act, also [released](#) a brief press release in support of it. "Government mandated CBDCs provide an opening for government digital tracking and overregulation that would violate the rights of Americans," said Steil "I am proud to join Majority Whip Emmer in introducing this important legislation, codifying President Trump's recent Executive Order into law."

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