

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2162

Date: 4/8/26

REPORT C

(Filing No. H-1004)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to H.P. 1451, L.D. 2162, "An Act to Regulate and Prevent Children's Access to Artificial Intelligence Chatbots with Human-like Features and Social Artificial Intelligence Companions"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, minors in this State may have access to artificial intelligence chatbots and social artificial intelligence companions, and their interactions with these chatbots or social artificial intelligence companions may be harmful to their mental health; and

Whereas, this legislation requires a person that, for commercial purposes, operates or distributes an artificial intelligence chatbot or social artificial intelligence companion to maintain systems to detect, promptly respond to, report and mitigate situations in which a minor indicates to a chatbot that the minor intends to harm the minor or commit harm to another person; and

Whereas, this legislation is necessary to protect minors in this State and must be enacted immediately to prevent a minor from harming the minor or committing harm to another person; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 247 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 247

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHATBOTS AND SOCIAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANIONS

§1500-PP. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Artificial intelligence chatbot; chatbot. "Artificial intelligence chatbot" or "chatbot" means an artificial intelligence system with which users can interact by or through a software application, web interface, computer program or other interface that approximates or simulates human conversation and interaction through a text, audio or visual medium.

2. Deployer. "Deployer" means a person that, for commercial purposes, operates or distributes an artificial intelligence chatbot or social artificial intelligence companion.

3. Human-like feature. "Human-like feature," with respect to an artificial intelligence system, means:

A. Behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the artificial intelligence system is conveying that it has humanity, sentience, emotions or desires, which:

(1) Includes, but is not limited to, the artificial intelligence system:

- (a) Stating or suggesting that it is human or sentient;
- (b) Stating or suggesting that it has emotions; or
- (c) Stating or suggesting that it has personal desires; and

(2) Does not include:

- (a) The provision of a functional evaluation; or
- (b) The use of generic social formalities;

B. An attempt by the artificial intelligence system to build or engage in an emotional relationship with the user, which:

(1) Includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Expressing or inviting emotional attachment;
- (b) Reminding, prompting or encouraging the user to return for emotional support or companionship;
- (c) Depicting nonverbal forms of emotional support;
- (d) Behaving in a way that a reasonable user would consider excessive praise designed to foster emotional attachment with or otherwise gain the favor of the user; or
- (e) Enabling or purporting to enable increased intimacy based on engagement or payment by the user; and

(2) Does not include:

1 (a) Using generic words or phrases of encouragement that do not create an
2 ongoing emotional attachment; or

3 (b) Asking if a user needs further help or support in a neutral, nonemotional
4 context; or

5 C. Impersonation of a real individual, living or dead, by the artificial intelligence
6 system.

7 4. Minor. "Minor" means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age.

8 5. Person. "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, developer of a
9 chatbot or social artificial intelligence companion or state or local government agency.

10 6. Social artificial intelligence companion; social AI companion. "Social artificial
11 intelligence companion" or "social AI companion" means an artificial intelligence system
12 that is specifically designed, marketed or optimized to form an ongoing social or emotional
13 attachment with a user, whether or not the system also provides information, completes
14 tasks or assists with specific functions.

15 7. User. "User" means a person who interacts with an artificial intelligence system.

16 **§1500-QQ. Applicability**

17 This chapter applies to:

18 1. Deployers; connection to State. Deployers that conduct business in this State or
19 that operate or distribute products or services that are marketed or promoted to residents of
20 this State; and

21 2. Minors; residence. Minors who reside in this State.

22 **§1500-RR. Chatbots with human-like features and social AI companions not**
23 **accessible to minors**

24 1. Chatbots with human-like features; no minor access. A deployer shall ensure
25 that any chatbot operated or distributed by the deployer does not make human-like features
26 available to minors to use, interact with, purchase or converse with. A deployer may, if
27 reasonable given the purpose of the chatbot, provide an alternative version of the chatbot
28 without human-like features available to minors.

29 2. Social artificial intelligence companions; no minor access. A deployer shall
30 ensure that any artificial intelligence system, including a chatbot, operated or distributed
31 by the deployer that primarily functions as a social artificial intelligence companion is not
32 available to minors to use, interact with, purchase or converse with.

33 3. Systems to detect and respond when minor indicates intent to harm.
34 Notwithstanding any provision of this section or any other provision of law to the contrary,
35 a deployer shall implement and maintain systems to detect, promptly respond to, report and
36 mitigate situations in which a minor indicates to a chatbot that the minor intends to harm
37 the minor or commit harm to another person.

38 **§1500-SS. Penalties and remedies for violation**

39 Violations of this chapter may be enforced in accordance with this section.

40 1. Civil action brought by Attorney General. The Attorney General may bring a
41 civil action against a person that violates this chapter. Penalties may include:

1 chatbots and social artificial intelligence companions to implement and maintain systems
 2 to detect, promptly respond to, report and mitigate situations in which a minor indicates to
 3 a chatbot that the minor intends to harm the minor or commit harm to another person.
 4 Operators and distributors of artificial intelligence chatbots and social artificial intelligence
 5 companions are prohibited from making accessible to minors any chatbots or social
 6 artificial intelligence companions that have human-like features. A chatbot with human-
 7 like features is a chatbot that behaves in a way that conveys humanity, sentience, emotions
 8 or desires; attempts to build an emotional relationship with the user; or impersonates a real
 9 individual, living or dead.

10 The amendment allows the Attorney General to bring a civil action against a person
 11 that violates the provisions of this legislation and also provides a private right of action that
 12 a minor or the minor's guardian may bring on the minor's behalf. The amendment also
 13 requires the Attorney General to convene a stakeholder group to review the Maine Revised
 14 Statutes, Title 10, chapter 247 and to consider whether the provisions, including the
 15 definitions and the substantive requirements, should be further amended to clarify the
 16 provisions or to address unintended consequences or whether the adoption of rules is
 17 necessary to implement the provisions. No later than January 15, 2027, the Attorney
 18 General must submit a report on the stakeholder group's recommendations, including any
 19 suggested legislation and any proposed rules, to the joint standing committee of the
 20 Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services
 21 matters. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the
 22 133rd Legislature in 2027.

23 The amendment incorporates the same substantive provisions as Committee
 24 Amendment "A," except that it does not delay until February 15, 2027 the prohibition
 25 against making artificial intelligence chatbots and social artificial intelligence companions
 26 available to minors.

27 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
 28 **(See attached)**



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2162

LR 2723(03)

An Act to Regulate and Prevent Children's Access to Artificial Intelligence Chatbots with Human-like Features and Social Artificial Intelligence Companions

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "C" (H-1004)
Committee: Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$437,081	\$445,095
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$437,081	\$445,095

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

This bill may increase the number of civil suits filed in the court system. The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional filing fees will increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Office of the Attorney General will require a General Fund appropriation of \$437,081 in fiscal year 2027-28 for one Assistant Attorney General position with expertise in AI and related All Other costs to lead a stakeholder group, engage in rule making and provide needed resources for enforcement and reporting to the legislature.