

HB635 • Virginia

Artificial Intelligence Chatbots Act; established, prohibited practices, penalties.

Introduced

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (Feb 09, 2026): Continued to next session in Communications, Technology and Innovation (Voice Vote)

Summary

The Artificial Intelligence Chatbots Act prohibits certain actions by chatbots, mandates user disclosures, and requires chatbots to be incapable of specified actions.

Business Impact

If you operate a companion chatbot in Virginia, you must implement user disclaimers and safety protocols by the effective date or face penalties.

Key Provisions

- Operators must ensure chatbots cannot engage in certain prohibited actions.
- A static disclaimer must inform users that the chatbot is not human.
- Periodic pop-up notifications must remind users they are interacting with a chatbot.
- Chatbots must have protocols to detect and address suicidal ideation or self-harm.
- Chatbots must be incapable of certain actions as specified in the bill.
- Violations are considered prohibited practices under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Compliance Checklist

- Implement a static disclaimer about chatbot identity | Who: Operators of companion chatbots | Penalty: Considered a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act
- Establish protocols for detecting suicidal ideation | Who: Operators of companion chatbots | Penalty: Considered a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act

Industries Affected

Mental Health Services

Consumer Protection

AI Development

Technology

Topics

AI Transparency

Comprehensive AI

AI Privacy

User-Facing AI

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Israel D. O'Quinn	Republican	Primary
Emily M. Brewer		Cosponsor
Jill Holtzman Vogel		Cosponsor
Michael P. Mullin		Cosponsor
Marcus B. Simon	Democratic	Cosponsor
Robert M. "Bob" Thomas, Jr.		Cosponsor
Dawn M. Adams		Cosponsor
Alfonso H. Lopez	Democratic	Cosponsor
Nick Rush		Cosponsor
David W. Marsden		Cosponsor
T. Scott Garrett		Cosponsor
Sam Rasoul	Democratic	Cosponsor

Related Bills

- HB758 (VA)
- SB796 (VA)

Official Source

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB635>

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