

# AB1988 • California

## Companion chatbots: crisis interruption pauses.

In Committee

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Effective: Jan 01, 2028 | Last Action (May 21, 2026): In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

## Summary

The bill aims to establish requirements for companion chatbots in California to address user crises, focusing on user safety and encouraging human intervention.

## Business Impact

If you operate a companion chatbot in California, you must implement crisis interruption protocols by January 1, 2028, or face enforcement actions.

## Key Provisions

- Operators should implement protocols for detecting user crises and encourage human support.
- Chatbots should be equipped to handle crisis situations appropriately, focusing on user safety and mental health support.

## Compliance Checklist

- Implement protocols for detecting credible crisis expressions | Who: Operators of companion chatbots | Penalty: Enforcement actions may be taken for non-compliance
- Document and report crisis expression data | Who: Operators of companion chatbots | Penalty: Enforcement actions may be taken for non-compliance

## Industries Affected

Technology

General

Mental Health

## Topics

## Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Gail Pellerin	D	Sponsor

## Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-05-21	AB 1988 Pellerin Assembly Third Reading	73	0	Passed
2026-05-14	Do pass	15	0	Passed
2026-04-21	Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [Ap	16	0	Passed
2026-04-16	Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [He	14	0	Passed

## Related Bills

- AB 1988 (CA)

## Official Source

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1988](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1988)

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