

SB 903 • California

Mental health professionals: artificial intelligence.

In Committee

Risk: Medium

Sector-Specific

Last Action (May 26, 2026): Referred to Coms. on B. & P. and P. & C.P.

Summary

This bill regulates AI use in psychotherapy, prohibits AI from recording or transcribing sessions without consent, and mandates compliance with confidentiality laws.

Business Impact

If you provide psychotherapy services using AI in California, you must obtain patient consent for AI use or face penalties.

Key Provisions

- Prohibits AI from recording or transcribing psychotherapeutic communications without patient consent.
- Requires licensed professionals to inform patients about AI use in their therapy.
- Bans AI from making independent therapeutic decisions or detecting emotions or mental states.
- Prohibits AI from triaging or screening a person for the need for psychotherapy services without informed consent.
- Mandates compliance with the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act for AI-generated records.
- Violations expand the scope of existing crimes due to the new regulations on AI use in psychotherapy and are subject to enforcement by health care professional licensing boards or enforcement agencies, which can pursue any remedies authorized by law.
- Specifies no reimbursement is required because it creates new regulations and imposes a state-mandated local program.

Compliance Checklist

- Obtain patient consent for AI use in psychotherapy | Who: Licensed mental health professionals
| Penalty: Subject to penalties by licensing boards

- Ensure AI-generated records comply with confidentiality laws | Who: Health facilities and licensed professionals | Penalty: Subject to penalties by licensing boards

Industries Affected

Healthcare Employment Education Government Consumer Protection

Topics

AI Healthcare AI Transparency Comprehensive AI AI in Education

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Padilla		Author
Rubio		Coauthor

Related Bills

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- AB 1979 (CA)
 - AB 2575 (CA)

Official Source

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB903

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