

# SB243 • California

## Companion chatbots.

Passed Both Chambers

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Effective: Jul 01, 2027 | Last Action (Oct 13, 2025): Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 677, Statutes of 2025.

## Summary

SB243 mandates operators of companion chatbots to disclose AI interactions and report on user safety measures.

## Business Impact

If you operate a companion chatbot platform in California, you must disclose AI interactions and implement safety protocols by July 1, 2027, or face civil penalties.

## Key Provisions

- Operators must notify users when interacting with a companion chatbot.
- Operators must maintain protocols to prevent harmful content related to suicide or self-harm.
- The bill includes definitions for key terms related to AI and companion chatbots.

## Compliance Checklist

- Issue clear notifications that users are interacting with AI. | Who: Operators of companion chatbot platforms | Penalty: Civil action for damages
- Implement protocols to prevent harmful content and disclose them online. | Who: Operators of companion chatbot platforms | Penalty: Civil action for damages
- Annually report to the Office of Suicide Prevention. | Who: Operators of companion chatbot platforms | Penalty: Civil action for damages

## Industries Affected

Mental Health

Technology

General

## Topics

User-Facing AI

## Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Josh Becker	D	Sponsor
Steve Padilla	D	Sponsor
Josh Lowenthal	D	Sponsor
Gail Pellerin	D	Sponsor
Susan Rubio	D	Sponsor
Henry Stern	D	Sponsor
Akilah Weber Pierson	D	Sponsor

## Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2025-09-11	Unfinished Business SB243 Padilla et al. Concurr	33	3	Passed
2025-09-10	SB 243 Padilla Senate Third Reading By Kalra	59	1	Passed
2025-08-29	Do pass	13	1	Passed
2025-07-15	Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [Ap	9	1	Passed
2025-07-08	Do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on [Ju	11	1	Passed
2025-06-03	Senate 3rd Reading SB243 Padilla et al	28	4	Passed
2025-05-23	Do pass	5	0	Passed
2025-05-12	Placed on suspense file	7	0	Passed

## Related Bills

- SB300 (CA)

## Official Source

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB243](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB243)

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