

# SB796 • Virginia

Artificial Intelligence Companion Chatbots and Minors Act; established, enforcement, civil penalty.

In Committee

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (Mar 02, 2026): Continued to next session in Communications, Technology and Innovation (Voice Vote)

## Summary

The Artificial Intelligence Chatbots and Minors Act mandates chatbot operators to implement safety measures, report incidents, and allows civil action by any person or the parent or legal guardian of a minor harmed by violations.

## Business Impact

If you operate AI chatbots for minors, you must implement safety measures and report incidents by July 1, 2024, or face civil penalties.

## Key Provisions

- Operators must make reasonable efforts to notify emergency services if a user faces imminent risk of death or serious physical injury.
- Operators must report certain covered incidents connected to the chatbot to the Attorney General.
- The Attorney General can seek an injunction for violations.
- Chatbots must disclose their non-human nature at specified intervals.
- Any person harmed by violations, or the parent or legal guardian of a minor harmed by violations, may pursue civil actions.

## Compliance Checklist

- Implement systems to identify emotional dependence and mental health crises. | Who: Covered entities (operators of chatbots with 500,000+ users) | Penalty: Civil penalties up to \$50,000 for non-compliance
- Notify emergency services if a user is at imminent risk of serious harm. | Who: Covered entities | Penalty: Civil penalties up to \$50,000 for non-compliance

- Submit incident reports to the Attorney General. | Who: Covered entities | Penalty: Civil penalties up to \$50,000 for non-compliance

## Industries Affected

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Healthcare	Law Enforcement	Technology	Education
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## Topics

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Comprehensive AI	User-Facing AI	AI in Law Enforcement
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## Bill Sponsors

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Name	Party	Role
Amanda F. Chase		Cosponsor
Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.		Primary
Roxann L. Robinson		Cosponsor
Ryan T. McDougle	Republican	Primary
Rosalyn R. Dance		Cosponsor
Glen H. Sturtevant, Jr.		Primary
Siobhan S. Dunnavant		Cosponsor
Jeremy S. McPike	Democratic	Cosponsor
Jennifer T. Wexton (incorporated chief co-patron)		Cosponsor
Jill Holtzman Vogel		Cosponsor
Surovell		Primary
Jennifer L. McClellan		Cosponsor

## Roll Call Votes

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Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-02-17	Reconsider R	40	0	Passed
2026-02-17	Passage R	39	1	Passed
2026-02-17	Constitutional reading dispensed (on 3rd reading)	40	0	Passed
2026-02-13	Constitutional reading dispensed R	35	0	Passed

2026-02-11	Reported from General Laws and Technology with sub	14	0	Passed
2025-02-18	House Amendments agreed to by Senate (40-Y 0-N)	40	0	Passed
2025-02-17	Passed House (96-Y 0-N)	96	0	Passed
2025-02-17	Passed House (95-Y 0-N)	95	0	Passed

## Related Bills

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- SB 796 (VA)
- HB758 (VA)
- HB635 (VA)

## Official Source

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<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB796>

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