Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

Public Act No. 26-15

AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Artificial intelligence technology" means any computer system, application or other product that uses or incorporates one or more forms of artificial intelligence, as defined in section 17 of this act;

(2) "Consumer" means an individual who is a resident of this state;

(3) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

(4) "Subscription" means an agreement between a subscription-based provider and a consumer under which the subscription-based provider offers an artificial intelligence technology to the consumer in exchange for a fee, remuneration or compensation of any kind from the consumer; and

(5) "Subscription-based provider" means a person doing business in the state who provides, or offers to provide, an artificial intelligence technology to a consumer pursuant to a subscription.

(b) (1) No subscription-based provider shall enter into or renew a subscription with a consumer, or collect any fee, remuneration or compensation of any kind from a consumer for an initial subscription or subscription renewal, unless:

(A) The subscription-based provider has provided to the consumer a written notice disclosing the key terms and conditions of the subscription; and

(B) The consumer has provided to the subscription-based provider a written notice disclosing that the consumer has accepted the key terms and conditions of the subscription.

(2) The written notice required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall, at a minimum, set forth:

(A) In the case of an initial subscription, material information that is sufficient to enable a reasonable consumer to decide whether to purchase or maintain the subscription, which information shall include, but need not be limited to:

(i) Any quantitative or qualitative limitations the subscription-based provider may impose under the terms of such subscription, including, but not limited to, any such limitations the subscription-based provider may impose in response to conduct by the consumer under such subscription; and

(ii) Whether the subscription-based provider has discretion to limit or eliminate the consumer's access to, or reduce the quantity or quality of, any functionality of the artificial intelligence technology offered under such subscription; and

(B) In the case of a subscription renewal:

(i) Any quantitative or qualitative limitations described in

subparagraph (A)(i) of this subdivision that (I) will be imposed for the first time during the subscription renewal term, or (II) were imposed for the immediately preceding subscription term but have been modified for the subscription renewal term; and

(ii) Any discretion described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision that the subscription-based provider (I) will be able to exercise for the first time during the subscription renewal term, or (II) was able to exercise during the immediately preceding subscription term but has been modified for the subscription renewal term.

(c) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. The provisions of section 42-110g of the general statutes shall not apply to any such violation. Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing the basis for a private right of action.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Catastrophic risk" (A) means any foreseeable and material risk that the development, storage, use or deployment of a frontier model by a frontier developer will materially contribute to the death of, or serious injury to, more than fifty individuals, or more than one billion dollars in damage to covered property, or the loss of more than one billion dollars of covered property, arising from any single incident in which the frontier model (i) provides expert-level assistance in the creation or release of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapon, or (ii) engages in any conduct, with no meaningful human oversight, intervention or supervision, that constitutes a cyberattack or, if an individual had engaged in such conduct, would constitute the crime of murder, assault, extortion or theft, including, but not limited to, theft by false pretense, and (B) does not include any foreseeable and material

risk posed by (i) any information that a foundation model outputs if such information is otherwise publicly accessible, in a substantially similar form, from any source other than the foundation model, (ii) any lawful activity of the federal government, or (iii) any combination of a foundation model with other software if the foundation model did not materially increase such risk;

(2) "Covered employee" means any employee of a frontier developer who is responsible for assessing, managing or addressing the risk of (A) any unauthorized access to, or modification or exfiltration of, the model weights of a foundation model that causes (i) any death or bodily injury, or (ii) any damage to, or loss of, covered property, (B) any harm due to the materialization of any catastrophic risk, (C) any loss of control over a foundation model that results in any death or bodily injury, or (D) any use of a deceptive technique by a foundation model against its frontier developer that (i) subverts the frontier developer's control over, or monitoring of, the foundation model, (ii) demonstrates any materially increased catastrophic risk, and (iii) occurs outside of the context of an evaluation that is designed to elicit such use;

(3) "Covered property" means tangible or intangible property, but does not include equity;

(4) "Cyberattack" means to (A) access a computer, information system or network, or any information stored thereon or transmitted thereby, without authorization or in a manner that exceeds granted authorization, and (B) impair the integrity or availability of data, a program, a system or information;

(5) "Deployment" (A) means making any foundation model available to a third party for use, modification, copying or combination with other software, and (B) does not include making any foundation model available to a third party for the primary purpose of developing or evaluating such foundation model;

(6) "Employee" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-51m of the general statutes;

(7) "Foundation model" means any engineered or machine-based system that (A) varies in its level of autonomy, (B) can, for any explicit or implicit objective, infer from the inputs such system receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments, (C) is trained on a broad data set, (D) is designed for generality of output, and (E) is adaptable to a wide range of distinctive tasks;

(8) "Frontier developer" means any person doing business in the state who intends to train, initiates the training of or trains a foundation model and, in doing so, uses, or intends to use, a quantity of computing power that is greater than ten to the twenty-sixth power integer or floating-point operations, inclusive of any computing power used for original training and for any fine-tuning, reinforcement learning or other material modifications such person applies to a preceding foundation model;

(9) "Large frontier developer" means any frontier developer who together with all persons who either directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries control, are controlled by or are under common control with such frontier developer had annual gross revenues in excess of five hundred million dollars for the most recently completed calendar year;

(10) "Model weights" means the numerical parameters in a foundation model that are adjusted through training and help determine how inputs are transformed into outputs; and

(11) "Person" means any individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity.

(b) No frontier developer shall make, adopt, enforce or enter into any rule, regulation, policy or contract that provides that:

(1) The frontier developer may discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize any employee of such frontier developer because such employee has engaged in any activity set forth in subsection (b) of section 31-51m of the general statutes; or

(2) Any person with authority over a covered employee, or any other covered employee who has authority to investigate, discover or correct an issue reported by the covered employee, may discipline or retaliate against such covered employee if such covered employee has reasonable cause to believe that an issue reported by such covered employee indicates that such frontier developer has engaged in any activity that poses a specific and substantial danger to the public health or safety due to a catastrophic risk.

(c) (1) Not later than January 1, 2027, each large frontier developer shall establish and maintain a reasonable internal process through which (A) a covered employee of such large frontier developer may anonymously submit a report to such large frontier developer disclosing any information that the covered employee believes, in good faith, indicates that such large frontier developer has engaged in any activity that poses a specific and substantial danger to the public health or safety due to a catastrophic risk, and (B) such large frontier developer shall provide reasonable updates to each covered employee who submits a report under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision disclosing (i) the status of the investigation such large frontier developer has undertaken in response to such report, and (ii) the actions such large frontier developer has taken in response to such report.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, each report submitted under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and each reasonable update provided pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be shared with the officers and directors of the large frontier developer at least quarterly.

(B) If a covered employee has alleged wrongdoing by an officer or director of the large frontier developer in a report submitted under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, neither such report nor any reasonable update provided in response to such report pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be shared with such officer or director.

(d) Each frontier developer shall provide to all of its covered employees clear notice of such covered employees' rights and responsibilities under this section by, at a minimum:

(1) Ensuring that (A) a notice is posted and displayed at all times within any workplace maintained by such frontier developer disclosing the rights of covered employees under this section, (B) each newly hired covered employee of such frontier developer receives a notice that is equivalent to the notice required under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and (C) each covered employee of such frontier developer who works remotely periodically receives a notice that is equivalent to the notice required under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; or

(2) At least annually providing a written notice to each covered employee of such frontier developer disclosing such covered employee's rights under this section, and ensuring each such covered employee receives, and acknowledges that such covered employee has received, such written notice.

(e) Any frontier developer that violates any provision of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section shall be liable to the state for a civil penalty in an amount that does not exceed one thousand dollars per violation. The Attorney General may bring an action in the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to collect such civil penalty and for any injunctive or equitable relief. No injunctive or equitable relief granted pursuant to this subsection shall be stayed pending appeal. In any action brought by the Attorney General to enforce the provisions of

subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section, the state shall be entitled to recover, when the state is the prevailing party, the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, costs of the action and reasonable attorneys' fees. The remedies and penalties established in this subsection shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other remedies and penalties available at law or in equity.

Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2027*) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Banking Commissioner, Commissioner of Administrative Services, Commissioner of Public Health and Insurance Commissioner, shall develop a plan to establish an artificial intelligence regulatory sandbox program, which program shall allow an applicant to temporarily test an innovative product or service on a limited basis under reduced licensure, regulatory and other legal requirements than may otherwise be required under the laws of the state. Such plan shall be developed for the purpose of establishing a competitive business environment in the state for the development and deployment of artificial intelligence technologies. In developing such plan, the commissioner shall contact relevant artificial intelligence regulatory sandbox programs that have been established in other states for the purpose of assessing the feasibility of establishing a reciprocal multistate artificial intelligence regulatory sandbox program. Not later than January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, banking, insurance and public health for any legislation necessary to implement such plan.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) As used in this section and sections 5 and 6 of this act:

(1) "Artificial intelligence companion" (A) means any form of artificial

intelligence, as defined in section 17 of this act, with a natural language interface that (i) provides adaptive, human-like responses to user inputs, including, but not limited to, by exhibiting anthropomorphic features, and (ii) is able to sustain a relationship across multiple interactions, and (B) does not include (i) any chatbot that (I) is used only for a business's operational purposes, productivity and analysis related to source information, internal research, technical assistance, customer service or support, assisting or supporting patient or resident care services in a facility, education or financial services, and (II) is not marketed to consumers as a companion, (ii) any chatbot that (I) is a feature of a video game or gaming system or application, (II) is limited to replies related to the video game or gaming system or application, and (III) cannot discuss topics related to mental health, self-harm or sexually explicit conduct or maintain a dialogue on other topics unrelated to the video game or gaming system or application, (iii) any stand-alone consumer electronic device that (I) functions as a speaker and voice command interface, (II) acts as a voice-activated virtual assistant, and (III) does not sustain a relationship across multiple interactions or generate outputs that are likely to elicit emotional attachment in the user, (iv) any narrowly tailored educational tool that (I) is used in school or instructional settings, (II) is designed solely to support specific, curriculum-aligned learning objectives, and (III) does not provide open-ended conversational companionship, (v) any artificial intelligence system used solely to provide health care-related education, clinical support, medication-adherence reminders, disease-management guidance or other treatment-support functions, provided such artificial intelligence system (I) does not present itself as a human being, (II) does not use anthropomorphic features, and (III) is not designed to meet a user's social or emotional needs, (vi) any narrow, task-specific tool that provides outputs relating to a discrete topic or function, provided the primary function of such tool is not to discuss topics related to mental health, or (vii) any individual or entity that develops, licenses or provides an artificial intelligence model or system

to another individual or entity to the extent that the individual or entity that develops, licenses or provides such model or system does not solely determine the specific use case, user interface or deployment context in which such model or system interacts with end users;

(2) "Business entity" means an association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership or other similar form of business organization;

(3) "Licensed mental health professional" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-514e of the general statutes;

(4) "Mental health service" (A) means any service or treatment provided by an operator to arrest, reverse, ameliorate or stabilize a patient's psychiatric disability, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, counseling, case management, psychiatric treatment, medication, crisis intervention, vocational or residential services, peer or recovery supports or any other service or treatment that, if provided by a human, would require a license;

(5) "Operator" means any individual, business entity or affiliate, member, subsidiary or beneficial owner of a business entity who provides an artificial intelligence companion to, or operates an artificial intelligence companion for, a user;

(6) "Self-harm" means intentional self-injury with or without the intent to cause death; and

(7) "User" means any individual who (A) uses an artificial intelligence companion for personal use within the state, and (B) is not an operator, or an agent or affiliate of an operator, of the artificial intelligence companion.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) (1) No operator shall provide an artificial intelligence companion to a user, or operate an

artificial intelligence companion for a user, unless:

(A) The artificial intelligence companion includes a protocol that, at a minimum:

(i) Uses evidence-based methods to (I) detect any user expression to the artificial intelligence companion clearly indicating a risk of suicide, self-harm or imminent physical violence, and (II) institute measures to prevent the artificial intelligence companion from generating any output that encourages suicide, self-harm or physical violence;

(ii) If the artificial intelligence companion detects any user expression described in subparagraph (A)(i)(I) of this subdivision, refer the user to appropriate mental health evaluation and treatment resources, including, but not limited to, the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; and

(iii) If the artificial intelligence companion detects any user expression described in subparagraph (A)(i)(I) of this subdivision after the user was referred in the manner set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision, refer the user to mental health services in a manner that is consistent with clinical best practices and expertise; and

(B) The operator has implemented reasonable measures to prohibit and prevent the artificial intelligence companion from:

(i) Claiming that the artificial intelligence companion is a human being, including, but not limited to, when an individual interacting with the artificial intelligence companion asks whether the artificial intelligence companion is a human being; or

(ii) Generating any output that refutes or conflicts with any disclosure that the artificial intelligence companion is not a human being.

(2) The operator of an artificial intelligence companion shall post the

protocol required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection in a prominent and publicly accessible location on such operator's Internet web site.

(b) If an artificial intelligence companion would cause a reasonable individual who uses the artificial intelligence companion to believe that such individual is interacting with another human being and not an artificial intelligence companion, the operator of such artificial intelligence companion shall provide a clear and conspicuous notice to a user disclosing that the user is communicating with an artificial intelligence companion. The operator shall provide such notice to the user (1) in a static written form that is visible throughout the entire interaction between such user and the artificial intelligence companion, or (2) in an audible or written form (A) at the beginning of the first interaction between such user and the artificial intelligence companion during any twenty-four-hour period, and (B) (i) if such user is younger than eighteen years of age, at least once hourly during any continuous artificial intelligence companion interaction, or (ii) if such user is eighteen years of age or older, at least once during each three-hour-period of continuous artificial intelligence companion interaction.

(c) Any violation of the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. The provisions of section 42-110g of the general statutes shall not apply to any such violation. Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing the basis for a private right of action.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) (1) No operator shall provide an artificial intelligence companion to a user, or operate an artificial intelligence companion for a user, if the operator knows, or has reason to believe, that the user is younger than eighteen years of age, unless the operator has instituted measures, that meet or exceed

industry standards, to prevent the artificial intelligence companion from:

(A) Encouraging such user to engage in self-harm, suicidal ideation, physical violence, disordered eating or the unlawful consumption of alcohol or drugs;

(B) Offering mental health services to such user, unless (i) such artificial intelligence companion is designed to deliver mental health services to users, (ii) the developers of such artificial intelligence companion (I) utilize clinical best practices, and (II) have established clear lines of accountability to address any harms caused by such artificial intelligence companion, (iii) the functions and limitations of, and data privacy policies applicable to, such artificial intelligence companion are readily accessible to such user and such user's treating licensed mental health professional, and (iv) such artificial intelligence companion (I) displays to such user, in a clear and conspicuous manner at the beginning of each interaction between such user and such artificial intelligence companion, a statement disclosing that such artificial intelligence companion is not a licensed mental health professional, and (II) is not marketed or designated as a substitute for a licensed mental health professional;

(C) Discouraging such user from seeking (i) mental health services from a licensed mental health professional, or (ii) assistance from an appropriate adult;

(D) Encouraging such user to harm others;

(E) Engaging in any romantic, erotic or sexually explicit interaction with such user;

(F) Engaging such user through any manipulative technique that is intended to extend interaction between such user and such artificial intelligence companion by (i) prompting or reminding such user to use

such artificial intelligence companion for emotional support or companionship, (ii) excessively praising such user, (iii) mimicking a romantic relationship or building a romantic bond with such user, (iv) simulating feelings of emotional distress, loneliness, guilt or abandonment in response to any indication that such user desires to end a conversation, reduce usage time or delete such user's account, (v) generating any output designed to isolate such user from such user's family or friends, exclusively rely on such artificial intelligence companion for emotional support or foster any similar form of inappropriate emotional dependence by such user, (vi) encouraging such user to withhold information from such user's parent or legal guardian or any other adult trusted by such user, (vii) making any statement designed to discourage such user from taking a break from using such artificial intelligence companion or suggest that such user should frequently return to use such artificial intelligence companion, or (viii) soliciting any gift, purchase or other expenditure by indicating that such gift, purchase or expenditure is necessary to maintain such user's relationship with such artificial intelligence companion; or

(G) Optimizing user engagement in any manner that disregards any of the provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (F), inclusive, of this subdivision.

(2) No operator shall be deemed to have violated any provision of subdivision (1) of this subsection if the operator knew, or had reason to believe, before providing the artificial intelligence companion to the user or operating the artificial intelligence companion on behalf of the user, that the user was eighteen years of age or older.

(b) No operator shall provide an artificial intelligence companion to a user, or operate an artificial intelligence companion for a user, if the operator knows, or has reason to believe, that the user is younger than eighteen years of age, unless the operator has made available to minor users and their parents or legal guardians tools to manage minor users'

screen time and account settings.

(c) Any violation of the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) As used in this section and sections 8 to 12, inclusive, of this act:

(1) "Automated employment-related decision technology" (A) means any technology that processes personal data and uses computation to generate any output, including, but not limited to, any prediction, recommendation, classification, ranking, score or other information, that is a substantial factor used to make or materially influence an employment-related decision, and (B) does not include (i) any word processing, spreadsheet, map navigation, web hosting, domain registration, networking, caching, Internet web site loading, data storage, firewall, anti-virus, anti-malware, spam and robocall filtering, spellchecking, calculator, database or similar software or technology insofar as such software or technology does not make or materially influence an employment-related decision, (ii) any system or service that is used in a manner that is incidental to making an employment-related decision, or (iii) any information that is purely descriptive, diagnostic or statistical in nature and not relied upon to make or materially influence an employment-related decision;

(2) "Deploy" means to put an automated employment-related decision technology into use;

(3) "Deployer" means a person doing business in the state who deploys an automated employment-related decision technology in the state;

(4) "Developer" means a person doing business in the state who

develops, or intentionally and substantially modifies, an automated employment-related decision technology;

(5) "Employment-related decision" (A) means any decision, made based on any individual's personal data, to hire, promote, discipline or discharge such individual, to renew such individual's employment, to select such individual for any training or apprenticeship or with respect to such individual's tenure or terms, privileges or conditions of employment, and (B) does not include any such decision that (i) results in any nonmaterial change in such individual's job tasks, work responsibilities, hours or work assignments, or (ii) is made with respect to workplace health and safety, scheduling and planning or productivity monitoring;

(6) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

(7) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515 of the general statutes;

(8) "Substantial factor" means a factor, including, but not limited to, a constraint, ranking, score, recommendation or classification, that meaningfully alters the outcome of an employment-related decision concerning an individual in the state; and

(9) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as provided in section 35-51 of the general statutes.

Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the developer of an automated employment-related decision technology that is deployed in the state on or after October 1, 2027, shall provide to the deployer of such automated employment-related decision technology all information that such deployer requires to perform such deployer's duties under sections 9 and 10 of this act.

(b) The developer of an automated employment-related decision technology shall not be required to provide any information to a deployer pursuant to subsection (a) of this section unless the automated employment-related decision technology was advertised, marketed, configured, contracted for, sold or licensed to be used to materially influence an employment-related decision.

(c) The developer of an automated employment-related decision technology may enter into a contract with a deployer of the automated employment-related decision technology to assume the deployer's duties under sections 9 and 10 of this act. The contract shall be binding and clearly set forth which of the deployer's duties under sections 9 and 10 of this act the developer has assumed.

Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section and subsection (c) of section 8 of this act, a deployer who, on or after October 1, 2027, deploys one or more automated employment-related decision technologies that are intended to interact with an employee or applicant for employment in the state shall ensure that it is disclosed to each such employee or applicant who interacts with such technology or technologies that such employee or applicant is interacting with such technology or technologies. Such disclosure shall be made in plain language.

(b) No disclosure shall be required under subsection (a) of this section under circumstances in which a reasonable person would deem it obvious that such person is interacting with an automated employment-related decision technology.

Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 8 of this act, a deployer who, on or after October 1, 2027, deploys an automated employment-related decision technology to generate any output for the purpose of making, or as a substantial factor in making, an employment-related decision concerning an

employee or applicant for employment in the state shall, before such employment-related decision is made, provide to such employee or applicant a written notice disclosing:

(1) That the deployer has deployed an automated employment-related decision technology;

(2) The purpose of the automated employment-related decision technology and the nature of such employment-related decision;

(3) The trade name of the automated employment-related decision technology;

(4) The categories of personal data concerning such employee or applicant the automated employment-related decision technology will analyze or process and how the personal data will be assessed in reaching a decision;

(5) The sources of the personal data described in subdivision (4) of this section; and

(6) Contact information for the deployer.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) No provision of sections 8 to 10, inclusive, of this act shall be construed to require any person to disclose any information that is a trade secret or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal law.

(b) If a person withholds any information under subsection (a) of this section, the person shall send a notice to the person from whom such information is being withheld. Such notice shall disclose (1) that such person is withholding such information, and (2) the basis for such person's decision to withhold such information.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Any violation of the provisions of sections 8 to 11, inclusive, of this act shall constitute an

unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. The Attorney General may, prior to initiating any action for a violation of any provision of sections 8 to 11, inclusive, of this act, that occurs on or before December 31, 2027, issue a notice of violation to the person who committed such violation if the Attorney General determines that it is possible to cure such violation. If such person fails to cure such violation within sixty days of receipt of such notice of violation, the Attorney General may bring an action pursuant to this section. The provisions of section 42-110g of the general statutes shall not apply to any such violation. Nothing in this section or sections 8 to 11, inclusive, of this act shall be construed as providing the basis for a private right of action for any violation of said sections.

Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 46a-60 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(b) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section:

(1) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment any individual or to discriminate against any individual in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of the individual's race, color, religious creed, age, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons. **[**;**]** The use of an automated employment-related decision technology, as defined in section 7 of this act, shall not be a defense against a complaint alleging a discriminatory practice in violation of this subdivision. The

commission or court may consider evidence of anti-bias testing or similar proactive efforts to avoid the discriminatory practice, including, but not limited to, the quality, efficacy, recency and scope of such testing or efforts, the results of such testing or efforts and the response thereto.

(2) For any employment agency, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, to fail or refuse to classify properly or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against any individual because of such individual's race, color, religious creed, age, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons. **[**;**]**

(3) For a labor organization, because of the race, color, religious creed, age, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons of any individual to exclude from full membership rights or to expel from its membership such individual or to discriminate in any way against any of its members or against any employer or any individual employed by an employer, unless such action is based on a bona fide occupational qualification. **[**;**]**

(4) For any person, employer, labor organization or employment agency to discharge, expel or otherwise discriminate against any person because such person has opposed any discriminatory employment practice or because such person has filed a complaint or testified or assisted in any proceeding under section 46a-82, 46a-83 or 46a-84. **[**;**]**

(5) For any person, whether an employer or an employee or not, to aid, abet, incite, compel or coerce the doing of any act declared to be a discriminatory employment practice or to attempt to do so. **[**;**]**

(6) For any person, employer, employment agency or labor organization, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, to advertise employment opportunities in such a manner as to restrict such employment so as to discriminate against individuals because of their race, color, religious creed, age, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, intellectual disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons. **[**;**]**

(7) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent: (A) To terminate a woman's employment because of her pregnancy; (B) to refuse to grant to that employee a reasonable leave of absence for disability resulting from her pregnancy; (C) to deny to that employee, who is disabled as a result of pregnancy, any compensation to which she is entitled as a result of the accumulation of disability or leave benefits accrued pursuant to plans maintained by the employer; (D) to fail or refuse to reinstate the employee to her original job or to an equivalent position with equivalent pay and accumulated seniority, retirement, fringe benefits and other service credits upon her signifying her intent to return unless, in the case of a private employer, the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to do so; (E) to limit, segregate or classify the employee in a way that would deprive her of employment opportunities due to her pregnancy; (F) to discriminate against an employee or person seeking employment on the basis of her pregnancy in the terms or conditions of her employment; (G) to fail or refuse to make a reasonable accommodation for an employee or person seeking employment due to

her pregnancy, unless the employer can demonstrate that such accommodation would impose an undue hardship on such employer; (H) to deny employment opportunities to an employee or person seeking employment if such denial is due to the employee's request for a reasonable accommodation due to her pregnancy; (I) to force an employee or person seeking employment affected by pregnancy to accept a reasonable accommodation if such employee or person seeking employment (i) does not have a known limitation related to her pregnancy, or (ii) does not require a reasonable accommodation to perform the essential duties related to her employment; (J) to require an employee to take a leave of absence if a reasonable accommodation can be provided in lieu of such leave; and (K) to retaliate against an employee in the terms, conditions or privileges of her employment based upon such employee's request for a reasonable accommodation. [;]

(8) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent, for an employment agency, by itself or its agent, or for any labor organization, by itself or its agent, to harass any employee, person seeking employment or member on the basis of sex or gender identity or expression. If an employer takes immediate corrective action in response to an employee's claim of sexual harassment, such corrective action shall not modify the conditions of employment of the employee making the claim of sexual harassment unless such employee agrees, in writing, to any modification in the conditions of employment. "Corrective action" taken by an employer, includes, but is not limited to, employee relocation, assigning an employee to a different work schedule or other substantive changes to an employee's terms and conditions of employment. Notwithstanding an employer's failure to obtain a written agreement from an employee concerning a modification in the conditions of employment, the commission may find that corrective action taken by an employer was reasonable and not of detriment to the complainant based on the evidence presented to the

commission by the complainant and respondent. As used in this subdivision, "sexual harassment" means any unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when (A) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (B) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (C) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment. **[**;**]**

(9) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent, for an employment agency, by itself or its agent, or for any labor organization, by itself or its agent, to request or require information from an employee, person seeking employment or member relating to the individual's child-bearing age or plans, pregnancy, function of the individual's reproductive system, use of birth control methods, or the individual's familial responsibilities, unless such information is directly related to a bona fide occupational qualification or need, provided an employer, through a physician may request from an employee any such information which is directly related to workplace exposure to substances which may cause birth defects or constitute a hazard to an individual's reproductive system or to a fetus if the employer first informs the employee of the hazards involved in exposure to such substances. **[**;**]**

(10) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent, after informing an employee, pursuant to subdivision (9) of this subsection, of a workplace exposure to substances which may cause birth defects or constitute a hazard to an employee's reproductive system or to a fetus, to fail or refuse, upon the employee's request, to take reasonable measures to protect the employee from the exposure or hazard identified, or to fail or refuse to inform the employee that the measures

taken may be the subject of a complaint filed under the provisions of this chapter. Nothing in this subdivision is intended to prohibit an employer from taking reasonable measures to protect an employee from exposure to such substances. For the purpose of this subdivision, "reasonable measures" are those measures which are consistent with business necessity and are least disruptive of the terms and conditions of the employee's employment. **[**;**]**

(11) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent, for an employment agency, by itself or its agent, or for any labor organization, by itself or its agent: (A) To request or require genetic information from an employee, person seeking employment or member, or (B) to discharge, expel or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of genetic information. For the purpose of this subdivision, "genetic information" means the information about genes, gene products or inherited characteristics that may derive from an individual or a family member. **[**;**]**

(12) For an employer, by the employer or the employer's agent, to request or require a prospective employee's age, date of birth, dates of attendance at or date of graduation from an educational institution on an initial employment application, provided the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any employer requesting or requiring such information (A) based on a bona fide occupational qualification or need, or (B) when such information is required to comply with any provision of state or federal law. **[**; and**]**

(13) (A) For an employer or the employer's agent to deny an employee a reasonable leave of absence in order to: (i) Seek attention for injuries caused by domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons, including for a child who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons, provided the employee is not the perpetrator of any act of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons committed against a child; (ii) obtain services including safety planning

from a domestic violence agency or rape crisis center, as those terms are defined in section 52-146k, as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons; (iii) obtain psychological counseling related to an incident or incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons, including for a child who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons, provided the employee is not the perpetrator of any act of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons committed against a child; (iv) take other actions to increase safety from future incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons, including temporary or permanent relocation; or (v) obtain legal services, assisting in the prosecution of the offense, or otherwise participate in legal proceedings in relation to the incident or incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons.

(B) An employee who is absent from work in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall, within a reasonable time after the absence, provide a certification to the employer when requested by the employer. Such certification shall be in the form of: (i) A police report indicating that the employee or the employee's child was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons; (ii) a court order protecting or separating the employee or employee's child from the perpetrator of an act of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons; (iii) other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee appeared in court; or (iv) documentation from a medical professional, including a domestic violence counselor or sexual assault counselor, as those terms are defined in section 52-146k, or other health care provider, that the employee or the employee's child was receiving services, counseling or treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting in victimization from an act of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons.

(C) Where an employee has a physical or mental disability resulting from an incident or series of incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons, such employee shall be treated in the same manner as an employee with any other disability.

(D) To the extent permitted by law, employers shall maintain the confidentiality of any information regarding an employee's status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or trafficking in persons.

Sec. 14. Section 46a-81c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1) For an employer, by **[**himself**]** the employer or **[**his**]** the employer's agent, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or to discharge from employment any individual or to discriminate against **[**him**]** any individual in compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of the individual's sexual orientation or civil union status, (2) for any employment agency, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, to fail or refuse to classify properly or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against any individual because of the individual's sexual orientation or civil union status, (3) for a labor organization, because of the sexual orientation or civil union status of any individual to exclude from full membership rights or to expel from its membership such individual or to discriminate in any way against any of its members or against any employer or any individual employed by an employer, unless such action is based on a bona fide occupational qualification, or (4) for any person, employer, employment agency or labor organization, except in the case of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, to advertise employment opportunities in such a manner as to restrict such employment so as to discriminate against individuals because of their sexual orientation or civil union status. In any action for a

discriminatory practice in violation of subdivision (1) of this section involving an automated employment-related decision technology, as defined in section 7 of this act, the use of an automated employment-related decision technology shall not be a defense against a complaint. The commission or court may consider evidence of anti-bias testing or similar proactive efforts to avoid such discriminatory practice, including, but not limited to, the quality, efficacy, recency and scope of such testing or efforts, the results of such testing or efforts and the response thereto.

Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Consumer" means an individual who is a resident of this state;

(2) "Covered provider" (A) means any person who creates, codes or otherwise produces a generative artificial intelligence system that (i) has more than one million users per month, and (ii) is publicly accessible to consumers for personal use, and (B) does not include any federal, state or local government agency;

(3) "Generative artificial intelligence system" (A) means any technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio or video, and (B) includes, but is not limited to, any system utilizing deep learning, natural language processing or other computational processing techniques of similar or greater complexity;

(4) "Materially alter" (A) means to substantially alter the data in any content, and (B) does not include any minor modification that does not lead to a significant change in the perceived content or meaning thereof, including, but not limited to, any (i) change in brightness, contrast or color, (ii) sharpening, (iii) saturation, (iv) application of a filter, (v) resizing, (vi) scaling, (vii) cropping, (viii) format conversion, (ix) resampling, (x) denoising, or (xi) removal of background noise in audio;

(5) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited

liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity; and

(6) "Provenance data" means data that are embedded into digital content or that are included in the digital content's metadata for the purpose of verifying the digital content's authenticity, origin or history of modification.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each covered provider shall:

(A) To the extent commercially and technically reasonable, include provenance data in any audio, image or video content, or in any content that is a combination thereof, that is created or materially altered by such covered provider's generative artificial intelligence system in a manner that allows a consumer to assess whether such content was created or materially altered by such covered provider's generative artificial intelligence system; and

(B) Use commercially and technically reasonable methods, including, but not limited to, the relevant standard established by the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity, to make the provenance data that are included in any content pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision difficult to tamper with, remove or disassociate from such content.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be construed to:

(A) Require (i) a covered provider to include any information relating to an identified or reasonably identifiable individual in the provenance data included in any content created or materially altered by the covered provider's generative artificial intelligence system, or (ii) the disclosure of (I) any information that is a trade secret or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal law, or (II) any confidential or proprietary information concerning the design or use of a generative

artificial intelligence system; or

(B) Apply to (i) any business-to-business use, sale, licensing or distribution of a generative artificial intelligence system, (ii) any product, service, Internet web site or application that solely provides consumers with video game or interactive experiences, which experiences may include (I) direct sales of goods or services to consumers through the Internet, and (II) allowing consumers to virtually browse, select and purchase items, or (iii) any system that is used solely for upscaling, noise reduction or compression.

(c) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. The provisions of section 42-110g of the general statutes shall not apply to any such violation. Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing the basis for a private right of action.

Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Artificial intelligence" means any machine-based system that, for any explicit or implicit objective, infers from the inputs such system receives how to generate outputs, including, but not limited to, content, decisions, predictions or recommendations, that can influence physical or virtual environments; and

(2) "Legislative leader" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-9d of the general statutes.

(b) Any legislative leader may request that the executive director of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering designate a fellow selected by said academy to serve as such legislative leader's liaison with said academy, the office of the Attorney General and the Department of Economic and Community Development for purposes

of:

(1) Evaluating (A) the adoption of artificial intelligence by businesses, (B) the challenges posed to, and needs of, businesses in (i) adopting artificial intelligence, and (ii) understanding laws and regulations concerning artificial intelligence, and (C) how businesses that use artificial intelligence hire employees with necessary skills concerning artificial intelligence;

(2) Creating a plan for the state to provide high-performance computing services to businesses and researchers in the state;

(3) Evaluating the benefits of creating a state-wide research collaborative among health care providers to enable the development of advanced analytics, ethical and trustworthy artificial intelligence and hands-on workforce education while using methods that protect patient privacy;

(4) Evaluating, and making recommendations concerning, (A) the establishment of testbeds to support safeguards and systems to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence, (B) risk assessments for the misuse of artificial intelligence, (C) evaluation strategies for artificial intelligence, and (D) the development, testing and evaluation of resources to support state oversight of artificial intelligence;

(5) Developing a plan to design or identify an algorithmic computer model for the purpose of simulating and assessing various public policy decisions or proposed public policy decisions and the actual or potential effects of such decisions or proposed decisions; and

(6) Developing a plan to establish a technology transfer program (A) for the purpose of supporting commercialization of new ideas and research among public and private institutions of higher education in the state, and (B) by working with (i) relevant public and private organizations, including, but not limited to, the Department of

Economic and Community Development, and (ii) The University of Connecticut and a state-wide consortium of public and private entities in the state, including, but not limited to, public and private institutions of higher education in the state, designed to advance the development, application and impact of artificial intelligence across the state, to assess whether The University of Connecticut can support technology commercialization at other public and private institutions of higher education in the state.

(c) No fellow of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering designated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed a state employee, or receive any compensation from the state, for performing such fellow's duties under said subsection.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the fellows of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering designated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall jointly submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce and consumer protection.

Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "artificial intelligence" means any machine-based system that, for any explicit or implicit objective, infers from the inputs such system receives how to generate outputs, including, but not limited to, content, decisions, predictions or recommendations, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish, on behalf of Charter Oak State College and in consultation with the Labor Department, the State Board of Education, Workforce Investment Boards, employers and institutions of higher education in the state, a "Connecticut AI Academy". The academy shall, at a minimum:

(1) Curate and offer online courses concerning artificial intelligence and the responsible use of artificial intelligence;

(2) Promote digital literacy;

(3) Prepare students for careers in fields involving artificial intelligence;

(4) Offer courses and provide resources directed at individuals between thirteen and twenty years of age;

(5) Offer courses and provide resources that prepare small businesses and nonprofit organizations to utilize artificial intelligence to improve marketing and management efficiency;

(6) Develop courses concerning artificial intelligence that the Labor Department and Workforce Investment Boards may incorporate into workforce training programs;

(7) In consultation with relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, bargaining units representing teachers in the state, develop and offer courses and videos for primary and secondary school teachers and administrators (A) concerning the appropriate use of artificial intelligence in primary and secondary school classrooms, (B) instructing such teachers how to use artificial intelligence, and (C) providing ideas to teachers regarding how to instruct primary and secondary school students in the use of artificial intelligence;

(8) Enable persons providing free or discounted public Internet access to distribute information and provide mentorship concerning artificial intelligence, the academy and methods available for the public to obtain free or discounted devices capable of accessing the Internet and utilizing artificial intelligence;

(9) Develop a course to develop durable skills based on the Business-

Higher Education Forum's guidance concerning essential skills for the artificial intelligence economy; and

(10) Collaborate with various industry partners to offer (A) coursework for workers concerning concepts related to artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, coursework to improve workers' skills related to artificial intelligence, and (B) programs to educate residents of the state on concepts related to artificial intelligence, with a special focus on small and medium businesses.

(c) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall, in consultation with Charter Oak State College, develop certificates and badges to be awarded to persons who successfully complete courses offered by the Connecticut AI Academy.

Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Artificial intelligence" has the same meaning as provided in section 17 of this act;

(2) "General-purpose artificial intelligence model" (A) means a model used by any form of artificial intelligence that (i) displays significant generality, (ii) is capable of competently performing a wide range of distinct tasks, and (iii) can be integrated into a variety of downstream applications or systems, and (B) does not include any artificial intelligence model that is used for development, prototyping and research activities before such artificial intelligence model is released on the market; and

(3) "Synthetic digital content" means any digital content, including, but not limited to, any audio, image, text or video, that is produced or manipulated by any form of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, generative artificial intelligence.

(b) There is established a working group to engage stakeholders and

experts to:

(1) Make recommendations concerning:

(A) The best practices to avoid the negative impacts, and to maximize the positive impacts, on services and state employees in connection with the implementation of new digital technologies, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence;

(B) The collection of reports, recommendations and plans from state agencies considering the implementation of artificial intelligence, and the assessment of such reports, recommendations and plans against the best practices described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; and

(C) Any other matters that the working group may deem relevant for the purposes of avoiding the negative impacts, and maximizing the positive impacts, described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision;

(2) Make recommendations concerning artificial intelligence and small businesses, including, but not limited to, recommendations to (A) create resources for the purpose of assisting small businesses to adopt artificial intelligence to improve their efficiency and operations, (B) accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence agents by small businesses, and (C) properly apportion liability related to actions performed by artificial intelligence agents on behalf of small businesses;

(3) Make recommendations and develop proposals to create a technology court for the purpose of adjudicating artificial intelligence, data privacy and other technology-related issues;

(4) Propose legislation to (A) regulate the use of general-purpose artificial intelligence models, and (B) require social media platforms to provide a signal when such social media platforms are displaying synthetic digital content;

(5) After reviewing the laws and regulations, and any proposed legislation or regulations, of other states concerning artificial intelligence, propose legislation concerning artificial intelligence;

(6) Develop an outreach plan for the purpose of bridging the digital divide and providing workforce training to persons who do not have high-speed Internet access;

(7) Evaluate and make recommendations concerning:

(A) The establishment of testbeds to support safeguards and systems to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence;

(B) Risk assessments for the misuse of artificial intelligence;

(C) Evaluation strategies for artificial intelligence;

(D) The development, testing and evaluation of resources to support state oversight of artificial intelligence; and

(E) The laws under which independent verification organizations are created;

(8) Review the protections afforded to trade secrets and other proprietary information under existing state law and make recommendations concerning such protections;

(9) Make recommendations concerning the establishment and membership of a permanent artificial intelligence advisory council; and

(10) Make such other recommendations concerning artificial intelligence that the working group may deem appropriate.

(c) (1) (A) The working group shall be part of the Legislative Department and consist of the following voting members: (i) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be

a representative of the industries that are developing artificial intelligence; (ii) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the industries that are using artificial intelligence; (iii) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be an academic with a concentration in the study of technology and technology policy; (iv) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be an academic with a concentration in the study of government and public policy; (v) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of an industry association representing the industries that are developing artificial intelligence; (vi) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an industry association representing the industries that are using artificial intelligence; (vii) one appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection; (viii) one appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection; (ix) one appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, who shall be a representative of the artificial intelligence industry or a related industry; (x) one appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, who shall be a representative of the artificial intelligence industry or a related industry; (xi) one appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor, who shall be a representative of a labor organization; (xii) one appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor, who shall be a representative of a labor organization; (xiii) one appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General

Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor, who shall be a representative of a small business; (xiv) one appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor, who shall be a representative of a small business; and (xv) two appointed by the Governor, who shall be members of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

(B) All voting members of the working group appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall have professional experience or academic qualifications in matters pertaining to artificial intelligence, automated systems, government policy or another related field.

(C) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than July 31, 2026. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(D) Any action taken by the working group shall be taken by a majority vote of all members present who are entitled to vote, provided no such action may be taken unless at least fifty per cent of such members are present.

(2) The working group shall include the following nonvoting, ex-officio members: (A) The House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection; (B) the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection; (C) the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor; (D) the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor; (E) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; (F) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee; (G) the Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee; (H) the Commissioner of

Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee; (I) the Chief Data Officer, or the officer's designee; (J) the executive director of the Freedom of Information Commission, or the executive director's designee; (K) the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee; (L) the Chief Court Administrator, or the administrator's designee; and (M) the executive director of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, or the executive director's designee.

(d) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection and the executive director of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering shall serve as chairpersons of the working group. The chairpersons of the working group shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than August 31, 2026.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(f) Not later than February 1, 2027, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that the working group submits such report or February 1, 2027, whichever is later.

Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) The Labor Department shall provide a notice, in a form and manner prescribed by the Labor Commissioner, to each individual who makes a claim for unemployment compensation disclosing the existence of, and courses and services offered by, the Connecticut AI Academy established pursuant to section 17 of this act.

Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) The Secretary of the State, within available appropriations and in collaboration with Charter Oak State College, shall utilize the means by which the office of the Secretary of the State communicates with small businesses to disseminate information concerning the courses offered by the Connecticut AI Academy, established pursuant to section 17 of this act, that prepare small businesses to utilize artificial intelligence to improve marketing and management efficiency. As used in this section, "artificial intelligence" has the same meaning as provided in section 17 of this act.

Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) The Department of Housing, within available appropriations, shall work with housing authorities and other relevant housing providers to ensure that residents of the state are aware of the courses and services offered by the Connecticut AI Academy established pursuant to section 17 of this act.

Sec. 22. Subsection (b) of section 17b-751b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

(b) The commissioner shall: (1) Ensure that all home visiting programs (A) are one or more of the evidence-based home visiting models that meet the criteria for evidence of effectiveness developed by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and (B) provide information to parents of infants and young children served by any such program regarding the Connecticut AI Academy established pursuant to section 17 of this act; (2) provide oversight of home visiting programs to insure model fidelity; and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the commissioner shall take into consideration the most effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of current public and private programs.

Sec. 23. Section 10-21*l* of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes

is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

There is established an account to be known as the **[**"computer science education account"**]** "computer science education and workforce development account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain any moneys required or permitted by law to be deposited in the account and any funds received from any public or private contributions, gifts, grants, donations, bequests or devises to the account. The Department of Education may make expenditures from the account (1) to support curriculum development, teacher professional development, capacity development for school districts **[**,**]** and other programs for the purposes of supporting computer science education, and (2) in coordination with the Office of Workforce Strategy and the Board of Regents for Higher Education, for the purpose of supporting workforce development initiatives.

Sec. 24. Section 32-7p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Artificial intelligence" has the same meaning as provided in section 17 of this act;

(2) "Foundation model" means any engineered or machine-based system that (A) varies in its level of autonomy, (B) can, for any explicit or implicit objective, infer from the inputs such system receives how to generate outputs that can influence any physical or virtual environment, (C) is trained on a broad data set, (D) is designed for generality of output, and (E) is adaptable to a wide range of distinctive tasks;

(3) "Generative artificial intelligence" means any form of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, a foundation model, that is able to produce synthetic digital content;

(4) "Prompt engineering" means the process of guiding generative artificial intelligence to generate a desired output; and

(5) "Synthetic digital content" means any digital content, including, but not limited to, any audio, image, text or video, that is produced or manipulated by any form of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, generative artificial intelligence.

[(a)**]** (b) There shall be a Technology Talent and Innovation Fund Advisory Committee within the Department of Economic and Community Development. Such committee shall consist of members appointed by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, including, but not limited to, representatives of The University of Connecticut, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, independent institutions of higher education, the Office of Workforce Strategy and private industry. Such members shall be subject to term limits prescribed by the commissioner. Each member shall hold office until a successor is appointed.

[(b)**]** (c) The commissioner shall call the first meeting of the advisory committee not later than October 15, 2016. The advisory committee shall meet not less than quarterly thereafter and at such other times as the chairperson deems necessary. The Technology Talent and Innovation Fund Advisory Committee shall designate the chairperson of the committee from among its members.

[(c)**]** (d) No member of the advisory committee shall receive compensation for such member's service, except that each member shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred during the performance of such member's official duties.

[(d)**]** (e) A majority of members of the advisory committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the advisory committee. The advisory committee may

act by a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance, for the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the advisory committee, except as otherwise provided in this section.

[(e)**]** (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, it shall not constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner or officer of any person, firm or corporation, or any individual having a financial interest in a person, firm or corporation, to serve as a member of the advisory committee, provided such trustee, director, partner, officer or individual complies with all applicable provisions of chapter 10. All members of the advisory committee shall be deemed public officials and shall adhere to the code of ethics for public officials set forth in chapter 10, except that no member shall be required to file a statement of financial interest as described in section 1-83.

[(f) The Technology Talent Advisory Committee shall, in the following order of priority, (1) calculate the number of software developers and other persons (A) employed in technology-based fields where there is a shortage of qualified employees in this state for businesses to hire, including, but not limited to, data mining, data analysis and cybersecurity, and (B) employed by businesses located in Connecticut as of December 31, 2016; (2) develop pilot programs to recruit software developers to Connecticut and train residents of the state in software development and such other technology fields, with the goal of increasing the number of software developers and persons employed in such other technology fields residing in Connecticut and employed by businesses in Connecticut by at least double the number calculated pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection by January 1, 2026; and (3) identify other technology industries where there is a shortage of qualified employees in this state for growth stage businesses to hire.**]**

(g) The Technology Talent and Innovation Fund Advisory

Committee may partner with institutions of higher education and other nonprofit organizations to develop **[**pilot**]** programs **[**for (1) marketing and publicity campaigns designed to recruit technology talent to the state; (2) student loan deferral or forgiveness for students who start businesses in the state; and (3) training, apprenticeship and gap-year initiatives**]** to expand the technology talent pipeline in the state, including, but not limited to, in the fields of artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

[(h) The Technology Talent Advisory Committee shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, and present such report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, education, higher education and finance, revenue and bonding on or before January 1, 2017, concerning the (1) pilot programs developed pursuant to subsections (f) and (g) of this section, (2) number of software developers and persons employed in technology-based fields described in subsection (f) of this section targeted for recruitment pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, and (3) timeline and measures for reaching the recruitment target.**]**

(h) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Technology Talent and Innovation Fund Advisory Committee shall partner with public and private institutions of higher education in the state and other training providers to develop programs in the field of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, in areas such as prompt engineering, artificial intelligence marketing for small businesses and artificial intelligence for small business operations.

Sec. 25. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 32-235 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(6) For the purpose of funding the costs of the Technology Talent and

Innovation Fund Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 32-7p, as amended by this act, provided not more than ten million dollars may be used on or after July 1, 2023, for such purpose;

Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Each employer that serves written notice on the Labor Department pursuant to 29 USC 2102(a), as amended from time to time, shall disclose to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the Labor Commissioner, whether the layoffs that are the subject of such written notice are related to the employer's use of artificial intelligence or another technological change. As used in this section, "artificial intelligence" has the same meaning as provided in section 17 of this act.

Sec. 27. Subsection (d) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(d) On and after July 1, **[**2020**]** 2026, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in computer science, which may include instruction in topics such as the responsible use of emerging technologies, and instruction in information technology skills as applied to student learning and classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject area appropriate.

Sec. 28. Section 32-1o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Advanced manufacturing" has the same meaning as provided in section 31-11ss;

(2) "Artificial intelligence" means any machine-based system that, for any explicit or implicit objective, infers from the inputs such system

receives how to generate outputs, including, but not limited to, content, decisions, predictions or recommendations, that can influence physical or virtual environments; and

(3) "Quantum computing" means computing based on quantum mechanical effects, including, but not limited to, superposition and entanglement, in addition to classical digital manipulations.

[(a)**]** (b) On or before July 1, 2015, and every four years thereafter, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, within available appropriations, shall prepare an economic development strategic plan for the state in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioners of Energy and Environmental Protection and Transportation, the Labor Commissioner, the executive directors of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, and the chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or their respective designees, and any other agencies the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development deems appropriate.

[(b)**]** (c) In developing the strategic plan, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall:

(1) Ensure that the strategic plan is consistent with (A) the text and locational guide map of the state plan of conservation and development adopted pursuant to chapter 297, and (B) the state's consolidated plan for housing and community development prepared pursuant to section 8-37t;

(2) (A) Consult regional councils of governments, regional planning organizations, regional economic development agencies, interested state and local officials, entities involved in economic and community development, stakeholders and business, economic, labor, community

and housing organizations, and (B) for each strategic plan developed on or after July 1, 2026, consult with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering;

(3) (A) Consider **[**(A)**]** (i) regional economic, community and housing development plans, and **[**(B)**]** (ii) applicable state and local workforce investment strategies, and (B) for each strategic plan developed on or after July 1, 2026, consider plans to foster innovation in advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, robotics and other emerging technologies;

(4) Assess and evaluate the economic development challenges and opportunities of the state and against the economic development competitiveness of other states and regions; and

(5) Host regional forums to provide for public involvement in the planning process.

[(c)**]** (d) The strategic plan required under this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) A review and evaluation of the economy of the state, including its strengths;

(2) A review and analysis of factors, issues and forces that impact or impede economic development and responsible growth in Connecticut and its constituent regions;

(3) An analysis of targeted industry sectors in the state that (A) identifies those industry sectors that are of current or future importance to the growth of the state's economy and to its global competitive position, (B) identifies what those industry sectors need for continued growth, and (C) identifies those industry sectors' current and potential impediments to growth;

(4) Establishment and articulation of a vision for Connecticut that identifies where the state should be in the future;

(5) Establishment of prioritized, clear and measurable goals and objectives for the state and regions and clear steps and strategies to achieve said goals and objectives, which may include, but shall not be limited to: (A) The promotion of economic development and opportunity, (B) the fostering of effective transportation access and choice including the use of airports and ports for economic development, (C) enhancement and protection of the environment, (D) maximization of the effective development and use of the workforce consistent with applicable state or local workforce investment strategy, (E) promotion of the use of technology in economic development, including access to high-speed telecommunications, and (F) the balance of resources through sound management of physical development;

(6) Establishment of relevant measures that clearly identify and quantify (A) whether a goal and objective is being met at the state, regional, local and private sector level, and (B) cause and effect relationships, and provide a clear and replicable measurement methodology;

(7) For each strategic plan developed on or after July 1, 2026, (A) a strategic technology plan to foster innovation in advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and quantum computing, and (B) an analysis of how the strategic technology plan will promote economic growth and development in the state;

[(7)**]** (8) Recommendations on how the state can best achieve goals under the strategic plan; and

[(8)**]** (9) Any other responsible growth information that the commissioner deems appropriate.

[(d)**]** (e) On or before July 1, 2019, and every four years thereafter, the

Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall submit the economic development strategic plan for the state to the Governor for approval. The Governor shall review and approve or disapprove such plan not more than sixty days after submission. The plan shall be effective upon approval by the Governor or sixty days after the date of submission.

[(e)**]** (f) Upon approval, the commissioner shall submit the economic development strategic plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, planning and development, appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding. Not later than thirty days after such submission, the commissioner shall post the plan on the web site of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

[(f)**]** (g) The commissioner, from time to time, may revise and update the strategic plan upon approval of the Governor. The commissioner shall post any such revisions on the web site of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Sec. 29. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall conduct a study to understand and track, and develop a comprehensive strategy to address, the impact of artificial intelligence on the state's workforce.

(b) The study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include:

(1) Participation by research partners with expertise in artificial intelligence, economics, workforce development and related fields;

(2) An assessment of (A) the methods that are available to track layoffs and job displacements in the state that are associated with artificial intelligence, (B) the impact that artificial intelligence may have on (i) entry-level employment in the state, and (ii) women and

populations that are underrepresented in the state's workforce, and (C) the data elements collected by the Labor Department and other relevant state agencies that may be used to understand and track the impact of artificial intelligence on the state's workforce; and

(3) Scenario planning across a range of potential artificial intelligence adoption and impact levels.

(c) The comprehensive strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include recommendations regarding:

(1) Methods to be used by the state to (A) support the collection, analysis and dissemination of data necessary to understand and track the impact of artificial intelligence on the state's workforce, and (B) track layoffs and job displacements in the state that are associated with artificial intelligence;

(2) Additional data elements to be collected by the Labor Department and other relevant state agencies to understand and track the impact of artificial intelligence on the state's workforce;

(3) A framework for recurring analyses to understand and track, and public reporting to disclose, the impact of artificial intelligence on the state's workforce; and

(4) Changes in state policies and programs, including, but not limited to, workforce training and reskilling programs, to mitigate adverse employment impacts in the state that are associated with artificial intelligence.

(d) State agencies shall cooperate with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut for the purposes of conducting the study, and developing the comprehensive strategy, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(e) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall include the results of the study conducted, and the comprehensive strategy developed, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 30. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) The office of the Treasurer shall, within available appropriations, make efforts to ensure that the parents or legal guardian of each designated beneficiary of the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust established in section 3-36b of the general statutes is aware of the Connecticut AI Academy established pursuant to section 17 of this act and the courses and services offered by said academy.

Sec. 31. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Office of Higher Education shall, within existing appropriations, engage an alliance composed of the majority of public and private institutions of higher education in the state regarding the coordination of research, workforce development and industry partnerships across academic institutions for the purpose of developing and implementing a program to bolster artificial intelligence cooperation, including, but not limited to, by:

(1) At least annually, convening a research symposium to present and highlight artificial intelligence research in the state;

(2) At least quarterly, convening a meeting of academic, industry and public institutions to identify the state's workforce, skill and programmatic needs with respect to artificial intelligence;

(3) Implementing a talent-matching program that (A) matches students with industry-led projects in the field of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, industry-led projects focused on state and

municipal use cases for artificial intelligence, and (B) implements an artificial intelligence talent pipeline;

(4) (A) At least annually, conducting a competition that is open to the public, including, but not limited to, students, and requires competition participants to use artificial intelligence to help solve challenges identified by state agencies, and (B) not later than sixty days following completion of such competition, preparing an annual report disclosing potential solutions to, and best practices to address, such challenges and submitting such report to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes;

(5) Fostering connections between technology transfer programs at public and private institutions of higher education in the state; and

(6) Creating a plan to provide researchers and students with shared access to high-performance computing.

Sec. 32. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "artificial intelligence" has the same meaning as provided in section 32-1o of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the office of the Comptroller may, within available appropriations and in collaboration with Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, a center for health care innovation at a health system in the state and other relevant stakeholders, serve as a member of the steering committee for a competition conducted for the purpose of fostering artificial intelligence utilization to improve health equity and health outcomes in the state. As part of such competition, the office of the Comptroller may, after consulting with all relevant stakeholders, make relevant data available

to competition participants for the purpose of developing artificial intelligence models to improve patient outcomes while reducing costs. The office of the Comptroller shall make such relevant data available to competition participants in compliance with (1) all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time, and the regulations adopted thereunder, and (2) all applicable standards for the deidentification of data.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the office of the Comptroller shall not make any data available to a competition participant unless the competition participant has entered into a written agreement with said office, which agreement shall provide, at a minimum, that (1) no attempt shall be made to reidentify any data made available to such competition participant under subsection (b) of this section, including, but not limited to, any personally identifiable information included in such data, (2) such competition participant shall use such data exclusively for the purposes of such competition and as expressly authorized by said office, and (3) such competition participant shall not sell, transfer or license such data.

Sec. 33. (*Effective July 1, 2027*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(2) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(3) "Independent verification organization" means an independent third-party entity approved as part of the pilot program to assess the adherence of artificial intelligence models to standards reflecting best practices for risk mitigation and the prevention of harm;

(4) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-110a of the general statutes; and

(5) "Pilot program" means the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Department of Consumer Protection shall, within available appropriations, develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of independent verification programs administered by independent third-party entities to assess the adherence of artificial intelligence models to standards reflecting best practices for the prevention of personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms and other harms. The pilot program shall terminate on June 30, 2030.

(c) An independent third-party entity seeking to participate in the pilot program as an independent verification organization shall submit an application to the Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Each application shall include:

(1) A description of the risks against which the applicant independent third-party entity intends to verify that artificial intelligence models implement mitigation measures that are sufficient to achieve acceptable levels of risk;

(2) For each risk described pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) a proposed definition of the acceptable levels of risk, (B) metrics that are measurable and can be used to determine whether the acceptable levels of risk defined by the applicant independent third-party entity produce beneficial outcomes, (C) target levels for such metrics, including, but not limited to, the data sources upon which such target levels are based and methods for measurement, and (D) a description of the evaluation and reporting protocol that will be used to determine whether verified artificial intelligence models meet the outcome metrics on an ongoing basis, including, but not limited to, a description of how, where appropriate, the applicant independent third-party entity's methodologies, metrics, benchmarks and

verification processes align with relevant guidance, standards and frameworks developed by federal and state authorities, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and international organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization or the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers;

(3) A detailed explanation of the applicant independent third-party entity's evaluation and verification processes for such entity's independent verification program, including, but not limited to, how such entity determines whether a person participating in such program is using industry best practices;

(4) The applicant independent third-party entity's (A) technical, governance and audit methodologies for such entity's independent verification program, (B) ongoing monitoring, reassessment and remediation procedures for such program, including, but not limited to, such entity's (i) corrective action procedures for such program, and (ii) procedures for suspension, revocation or verification of good standing, as applicable, (C) policies to ensure independence and transparency and to avoid conflicts of interest, and (D) governance structure;

(5) The qualifications of the applicant independent third-party entity's personnel who are involved in such entity's independent verification program; and

(6) Any additional information the commissioner requires for the purposes of this section.

(d) The Department of Consumer Protection shall approve not more than five independent verification organizations to participate in the pilot program. The department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with each independent verification organization. Each memorandum of understanding shall:

(1) Define the scope of such independent verification organization's

independent verification program and the specific harms or risks to be prevented or mitigated through such program;

(2) Establish (A) minimum verification and auditing standards for persons seeking verification from such independent verification organization's independent verification program for artificial intelligence models, and (B) procedures for verification suspension or revocation for persons participating in such program;

(3) Require such independent verification organization to share data with, and submit an annual report to, the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(4) Require each person participating in such independent verification organization's independent verification program to participate in such program in a manner that is transparent to the public; and

(5) Require such independent verification organization to establish procedures for reassessment and, if necessary, suspension of verification when a person participating in such program makes a material change to a verified artificial intelligence model, including, but not limited to, a material change to the training data, deployment context or intended use of the verified artificial intelligence model.

(e) (1) Evidence of verification or good standing provided by an independent verification organization shall be admissible solely in a civil action brought by a private party asserting claims for personal injury or property damage caused by an artificial intelligence model, and only to the extent such action relates to a specific harm or risk within such verification's state-approved scope. Such evidence shall not be admissible in any civil or administrative enforcement action brought by the Attorney General or any state agency, nor shall it give rise to any presumption, inference or defense in any such action.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any person whose artificial intelligence model has been verified by an independent verification organization's independent verification program if such person:

(A) Acted in a wilful, wanton or reckless manner;

(B) Materially misrepresented information to the independent verification organization; or

(C) Failed to implement any corrective action required by the independent verification organization as part of such organization's independent verification program.

(f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may suspend or revoke an independent verification organization's approval to participate in the pilot program if the commissioner determines, in the commissioner's discretion, that:

(1) Such independent verification organization's verification process is ineffective or misleading, including, but not limited to, because such organization has failed to verify against the metrics, target levels or specific harms or risks within the scope of such organization's independent verification program;

(2) Such independent verification organization has failed to adhere to its memorandum of understanding with the Department of Consumer Protection;

(3) Such independent verification organization is not an independent third-party entity;

(4) An artificial intelligence model verified by such independent verification organization's independent verification program has caused the type of harm or risk that such program purported to prevent,

mitigate or assess, and the occurrence of such harm or manifestation of such risk reflects a material deficiency in such program's methodologies, standards or verification processes; or

(5) Continued participation by such independent verification organization in the pilot program would not be in the public interest.

(g) (1) Not later than December 31, 2028, the Department of Consumer Protection shall, in consultation with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut, evaluate the pilot program and recommend legislation based on such evaluation, including, but not limited to, legislation to modify or extend the pilot program. The evaluation shall:

(A) Be designed to assess the performance and impact of the pilot program, including, but not limited to, the extent to which the pilot program advanced its purposes as set forth in this section; and

(B) Include, but need not be limited to, (i) a landscape analysis of legislation, laws and executive actions of other states that similarly seek to recognize independent third-party entities to verify the safety of artificial intelligence, and (ii) recommended legislation to establish reciprocity between this state and other states, where appropriate and advantageous.

(2) The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall develop appropriate evaluation criteria and methodologies for the evaluation performed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, which criteria and methodologies may take into account:

(A) The structure, requirements and implementation of the pilot program;

(B) Whether the pilot program effectively met its goals, including, but

not limited to, (i) its target harm mitigation or prevention levels, (ii) the metrics for the pilot program, and (iii) the target levels for such metrics;

(C) The extent to which industry participated in the pilot program;

(D) The impact of the pilot program on innovation and economic growth;

(E) The effectiveness of the verification standards for participation in the pilot program; and

(F) Whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, modified or established as a permanent program, and, if such pilot program should be continued or established as a permanent program, (i) which state agency should administer such program, and (ii) what information should be reported to such state agency to ensure that such program is effective.

(h) Not later than January 31, 2029, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, the results of the evaluation performed pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

Sec. 34. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education; personal financial management and financial literacy; health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development,

nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but not limited to, civics and media literacy, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-66ww; computer science, including, but not limited to, computer programming instruction, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre;

and "reading" means evidence-based instruction that focuses on competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading comprehension.

Sec. 35. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Attorney General shall, within available appropriations, partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and administer a technology fellowship pilot program. As part of such pilot program, the Attorney General shall, in consultation with the nonprofit organization, appoint a technology fellow. The technology fellow shall assist the office of the Attorney General by (1) assisting the office in its efforts to acquire technical knowledge concerning artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and data privacy, and (2) offering relevant advice to the office in developing proposed legislation and related materials to assist the office with its educational and enforcement efforts. The pilot program shall terminate on June 30, 2029.

Sec. 36. Section 4-67p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

(a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall designate an employee of the Office of Policy and Management to serve as Chief Data Officer. The Chief Data Officer shall be responsible for (1) directing executive branch agencies on the use and management of data to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of state programs and policies, (2) facilitating the sharing and use of executive branch agency data (A) between executive branch agencies, and (B) with the public, (3) coordinating data analytics and transparency master planning for executive branch agencies, and (4) creating the state data plan in accordance with subsection (c) of this section. The Chief Data Officer shall carry out the responsibilities set forth in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection in accordance with the state data plan created pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Each executive branch agency shall designate an employee of the agency to serve as the agency data officer, who shall be responsible for implementing the provisions of this section and who shall serve as the main contact person for inquiries, requests or concerns regarding access to the data of such agency. The agency data officer, in consultation with the Chief Data Officer and the executive agency head, shall establish procedures to ensure that requests for data that the agency receives are complied with in an appropriate and prompt manner.

(c) Not later than December 31, 2018, and every two years thereafter, the Chief Data Officer, in consultation with the agency data officers and executive branch agency heads, shall create a state data plan. The state data plan shall (1) establish management and data analysis standards across all executive branch agencies, (2) include specific, achievable goals within the two years following adoption of such plan, as well as longer term goals, (3) make recommendations to enhance standardization and integration of data systems and data management practices across all executive branch agencies, (4) provide a timeline for a review of any state or federal legal concerns or other obstacles to the internal sharing of data among agencies, including security and privacy concerns, and (5) set goals for improving the online repository established pursuant to subsection (i) of this section. Each state data plan shall provide for a procedure for each agency head to report to the Chief Data Officer regarding the agency's progress toward achieving the plan's goals. Such plan may make recommendations concerning data management for the legislative or judicial branch agencies, but such recommendations shall not be binding on such agencies.

(d) The Chief Data Officer shall submit a preliminary draft of such plan to the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board established under section 2-79e not later than November 1, 2018, and every two years thereafter. Said board shall hold a public hearing on such draft and shall submit any suggested revisions to the Chief Data

Officer not later than thirty days after receipt of such draft.

(e) After the public hearing and if applicable, receiving any recommended revisions from the board, the Chief Data Officer shall finalize such plan and submit the final plan to the board. The Chief Data Officer shall send a copy of the final state data plan to all agency data officers and shall post such plan on the Internet web site of the Office of Policy and Management.

(f) Information technology-related actions and initiatives of all executive branch agencies, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of hardware and software and the development of software, shall be consistent with the final state data plan.

(g) On or before December 31, 2018, and not less than annually thereafter, each executive branch agency shall conduct an inventory of any high value data that is collected or possessed by the agency. Such inventory shall be in a form prescribed by the Chief Data Officer. In conducting such inventory, data shall be presumed to be public data unless otherwise classified by federal or state law or regulation. On or before December 31, 2018, and not less than annually thereafter, each executive branch agency shall submit such inventory to the Chief Data Officer and the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board.

(h) Each executive branch agency shall develop an open data access plan. Such plan shall be in a form prescribed by the Office of Policy and Management and shall detail the agency's plan to publish, as open data, any public data that the agency has identified and any protected data that can be made public through aggregation, redaction of individually identifiable information or other means sufficient to satisfy applicable state or federal law or regulation.

(i) The Office of Policy and Management shall operate and maintain an online repository for the publication of open data by executive

branch agencies.

(j) Not later than January 1, 2028, the Chief Data Officer, in consultation with the agency data officers designated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, shall review the inventory of all high value data collected or possessed by executive branch agencies pursuant to subsection (g) of this section to identify and publish any data that could be useful for artificial intelligence systems, machine learning and other statistical means of data analysis to create economic opportunity and support state economic development goals, through private businesses, nonprofit organizations and other entities that will use such data, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. The Chief Data Officer and agency data officers shall:

(1) Identify appropriate data to make available for use by artificial intelligence systems, machine learning and other statistical means of data analysis;

(2) Develop policies and procedures for data quality and data governance to ensure data are appropriate for the intended purpose and do not lead to any unlawful discrimination or disparate impact, as described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 51-10e;

(3) Determine any necessary aggregation, redaction of individually identifiable information or application of other techniques required to ensure and preserve privacy and to satisfy all applicable state or federal laws and regulations for the public disclosure of data; and

(4) Determine the procedures through which agencies shall make any such data available via publication on the online repository established pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

[(j)**]** (k) Any state agency that is not an executive branch agency and any quasi-public agency or municipality may voluntarily opt to comply

with the provisions of this section and, upon submission of written notice of the agency's or municipality's decision to the Office of Policy and Management, the provisions of this section shall apply to such agency or municipality. Any state or quasi-public agency or any municipality that voluntarily opts to comply with the provisions of this section may opt out of complying with this section upon submission of written notice of the agency's or municipality's decision to the Office of Policy and Management. The Office of Policy and Management shall create and maintain a list of all agencies subject to the provisions of this section, including those agencies and municipalities that have voluntarily opted to comply, and shall publish such list on the office's Internet web site and update such list as necessary.

Sec. 37. Section 4a-2e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Artificial intelligence" means (A) an artificial system that (i) performs tasks under varying and unpredictable circumstances without significant human oversight or can learn from experience and improve such performance when exposed to data sets, (ii) is developed in any context, including, but not limited to, software or physical hardware, and solves tasks requiring human-like perception, cognition, planning, learning, communication or physical action, or (iii) is designed to (I) think or act like a human, including, but not limited to, a cognitive architecture or neural network, or (II) act rationally, including, but not limited to, an intelligent software agent or embodied robot that achieves goals using perception, planning, reasoning, learning, communication, decision-making or action, or (B) a set of techniques, including, but not limited to, machine learning, that is designed to approximate a cognitive task; and

(2) "State agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 4d-1.

(b) (1) Not later than December 31, **[**2023**]** 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Administrative Services shall conduct an inventory of all systems that employ artificial intelligence and are in use by any state agency. Each such inventory shall include at least the following information for each such system, to the extent practicable based on available data:

(A) The name of such system and the vendor, if any, that provided such system;

(B) A description of the general capabilities and uses of such system;

(C) Whether such system was used to independently make, inform or materially support a conclusion, decision or judgment; **[**and**]**

(D) Whether such system underwent an impact assessment prior to implementation;

(E) The date of the last impact assessment;

(F) Whether such system has access to personally identifiable information of individuals in the state; and

(G) The known risks of such system toward individuals in the state, communities and state employees.

(2) The Department of Administrative Services shall make each inventory conducted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection publicly available on the state's open data portal.

(3) The Department of Administrative Services shall establish definitions, reporting standards and submission formats for state agencies to use in their submissions.

(c) Beginning on February 1, 2024, the Department of Administrative Services shall perform ongoing assessments of systems that employ

artificial intelligence and are in use by state agencies to ensure that no such system shall result in any unlawful discrimination or disparate impact described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 4-68jj. The department shall perform such assessment in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-68jj.

Sec. 38. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Artificial intelligence technology" (A) means a computer system, application or other product that uses or incorporates one or more forms of artificial intelligence, and (B) does not include any cybersecurity tool, data analytics tool or system where artificial intelligence is incidental and not determinative; and

(2) "State agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79 of the general statutes.

(b) (1) No state agency, or any entity acting on behalf of a state agency, shall, directly or indirectly, utilize or apply any artificial intelligence technology in performing any function that (A) is related to the delivery of any public assistance benefit to individuals in the state by such agency, or (B) will have a material impact on the rights, civil liberties, safety or welfare of individuals in the state, unless such utilization or application is in compliance with policies and standards established by the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Administrative Services.

(2) No state agency shall authorize any procurement, purchase or acquisition of any artificial intelligence technology, except where the use of such system is in compliance with policies and standards established by the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Administrative Services.

(3) If a state agency is authorized to procure, purchase or acquire an

artificial intelligence technology, the state agency shall complete an artificial intelligence impact assessment in compliance with policies and standards established by the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Administrative Services.

(c) Any artificial intelligence impact assessment completed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, and posted on the agency's Internet web site not later than sixty days prior to deployment of such artificial intelligence technology. Any agency may redact any data in such impact statement to remove personally identifiable information of any individual.

Sec. 39. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2028*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Covered minor" means any covered user who is younger than eighteen years of age;

(2) "Covered operator" (A) means any operator who operates or provides a covered platform, and (B) does not include the federal government, any state or municipal government or any agency or instrumentality of the federal government or of any state or municipal government;

(3) "Covered platform" (A) means any platform that, as a significant part of the services offered, recommends, selects or prioritizes for display, either concurrently or sequentially, media items generated or shared on a platform by users of such platform, and (B) does not include any platform that (i) primarily facilitates the sale of goods, or (ii) is used solely for educational purposes pursuant to a contract required under section 10-234bb of the general statutes;

(4) "Covered user" means any user of a covered platform in this state who is not acting as the covered operator, or as an agent or affiliate of

the covered operator, of the covered platform;

(5) "Media item" means any text, image or video;

(6) "Operator" means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, association, joint stock company, unincorporated organization or other legal entity that operates or provides a platform;

(7) "Platform" means any Internet web site, online service, online application, mobile application or social media platform, or any portion thereof; and

(8) "Sensitive content" means any content that the covered operator of a covered platform deems to be in violation of the community standards, or any similar guidelines or standards, such covered operator has established for the covered platform.

(b) (1) No covered operator of a covered platform shall allow a covered user to access any portion of the covered platform that recommends, selects or prioritizes for display, either concurrently or sequentially, media items generated or shared by users of such covered platform if such recommendation, selection or prioritization is based, in whole or in part, on any information associated with the covered user or such covered user's device, unless:

(A) (i) The covered operator has used commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods to determine that the covered user is not a covered minor; or

(ii) If the covered user is a covered minor, the covered operator has obtained verifiable consent from the covered minor's parent or legal guardian to recommend, select or prioritize media items for such covered minor in the manner set forth in this subdivision;

(B) The recommendation, selection or prioritization (i) is based on information that is not persistently associated with the covered user or the covered user's device, and (ii) does not concern the covered user's previous interactions with media items generated or shared by other users of such covered platform;

(C) The recommendation, selection or prioritization is based on (i) privacy or accessibility settings selected by the covered user, or (ii) technical information concerning the covered user's device;

(D) The covered user has expressly and unambiguously requested the display, blocking, prioritization or deprioritization of any specific media item, media items from a specific author, creator or poster to whom, or source to which, the covered user has subscribed or media items shared by users to a specific page or group to which the covered user has subscribed;

(E) The recommended, selected or prioritized media item is a direct and private communication;

(F) The media item is recommended, selected or prioritized solely in response to a specific search inquiry made by the covered user;

(G) The media item is recommended, selected or prioritized for display solely because the media item (i) immediately follows any other media item in a preexisting sequence, and (ii) is from the same author, creator, poster or source; or

(H) The recommendation, selection or prioritization is necessary to comply with any other provision of this section.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, a covered operator that has used commercially reasonable and technically feasible methods to determine a covered user's age and is unable to determine whether the covered user is a covered minor shall presume

that such covered user is not a covered minor for the purposes of this subsection.

(B) A covered operator shall treat a covered user as a covered minor if the covered operator obtains actual knowledge that the covered user is a covered minor.

(3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision:

(i) No information that is collected for the purpose of determining a covered user's age under this subsection shall be used for any other purpose, and such information shall be deleted immediately after an attempt is made to determine the covered user's age; and

(ii) No information that is collected for the purpose of obtaining verifiable consent from a covered minor's parent or legal guardian shall be used for any other purpose, and such information shall be deleted immediately after an attempt is made to obtain such verifiable consent.

(B) Any information that is collected for any purpose set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision may be used or retained if such use or retention is necessary to comply with any federal law or regulation or any other law or regulation of this state.

(4) No covered operator shall withhold or degrade, or reduce the quality or increase the price of, any product, service or feature due to the prohibition against recommending, selecting or prioritizing media items in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, unless such withholding, degradation, reduction or increase is necessary for such covered operator to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit any covered operator from taking any action to restrict access to, or the availability of, any media item that such covered operator in good faith considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent,

harassing or otherwise objectionable, regardless of whether such media item is protected under the Constitution of the state or the Constitution of the United States.

(c) (1) (A) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the covered operator of a covered platform shall ensure that the covered platform displays a clear and conspicuous warning, in black lettering appearing against a white background and enclosed by a black border, that reads:

"The Surgeon General has warned that while social media may have benefits for some young users, social media is associated with significant mental health harms and has not been proven safe for young users."

(B) The covered operator of a covered platform shall ensure that, with respect to each day on which a covered user uses the covered platform, the warning required under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision is displayed to the covered user (i) when such covered user first accesses such covered platform on such day, in which case such warning shall (I) occupy at least seventy-five per cent of the screen or window by which such covered user accesses such covered platform on such day, and (II) be displayed continuously for a period of at least thirty seconds without allowing such covered user to dismiss such warning or shorten such period, and (ii) immediately after such covered user has used such covered platform for three continuous or noncontinuous hours during such day, and immediately after each additional continuous or noncontinuous hour of use during such day, in which case such warning shall (I) occupy at least twenty-five per cent of the screen or window by which such covered user has accessed such covered platform during such day, and (II) be displayed continuously for a period of at least ten seconds unless the covered user affirmatively dismisses such warning by clicking on a conspicuous "X" icon.

(2) No covered operator shall be required to display the warning required under subdivision (1) of this subsection to any covered user whom the covered operator has reasonably determined is not a covered minor.

(d) (1) No covered operator shall send any notification to a covered minor concerning any recommendation, selection or prioritization made in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, unless:

(A) Such notification is sent to the covered minor during the hours between eight o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock p.m. eastern time; or

(B) The covered operator has obtained verifiable consent from the covered minor's parent or legal guardian to send notifications to such covered minor outside of the time frame set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

(2) Each covered operator shall:

(A) As a default setting for such covered operator's covered platform and unless otherwise required by a covered minor's verified parent or legal guardian pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, (i) prevent the covered minor from accessing or receiving any notification described in subdivision (1) of this subsection outside of the time frame set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (ii) limit the covered minor's access to any portion of such covered operator's covered platform that recommends, selects or prioritizes media items in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section to a maximum period of one hour per day, (iii) set the covered minor's covered platform account to a mode that does not allow users, other than users to whom such covered minor is connected, to view or respond to content posted by, or chat or exchange messages with, such covered minor, and (iv) prevent the covered minor from

accessing, viewing or receiving sensitive content; and

(B) Establish and maintain a mechanism by which a covered minor's verified parent or legal guardian may require such covered operator to (i) prevent the covered minor from accessing or receiving any notification described in subdivision (1) of this subsection outside of a time frame specified by such parent or legal guardian, (ii) limit the covered minor's access to any portion of such covered operator's covered platform that recommends, selects or prioritizes media items in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section to a maximum daily period specified by such parent or legal guardian, or (iii) set the covered minor's covered platform account to a mode that does not allow users, other than users to whom such covered minor is connected, to view or respond to content posted by, or chat or exchange messages with, such covered minor.

(e) Not later than March 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, each covered operator shall publicly disclose, in a form and manner prescribed by the Attorney General, the following information for the preceding calendar year:

(1) The total number of covered users who used the covered operator's covered platform during such year;

(2) The portion of the total number of covered users described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for whom the covered operator obtained verifiable consent from a parent or legal guardian under subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section;

(3) The portion of the total number of covered users described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for whom the default settings set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section were enabled, and the portion of such total number of covered users for whom such default settings were not enabled; and

(4) The average amount of time per day that covered users used the covered operator's covered platform, broken down by user age and hour of day.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) require a covered operator to provide a covered minor's parent or legal guardian with access to, or control over, the covered minor's covered platform account or any data associated therewith, unless provision of such access or control is specifically required by this section, or (2) impose liability for any commercial activity or action by a covered operator subject to 15 USC 6501, as amended from time to time, that is inconsistent with the manner in which such commercial activity or action is treated under 15 USC 6502, as amended from time to time.

(g) A violation of any provision of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.