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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANION MODELS

Introduced By: Senators Urso, Gu, DiPalma, Paolino, Zurier, Murray, and Appollonio

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: Senate Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Tech

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 6 of the General Laws entitled "COMMERCIAL LAW — GENERAL
REGULATORY PROVISIONS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER 63

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANION MODELS

6-63-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "AI companion" means a system using artificial intelligence, generative artificial
intelligence, and/or emotional recognition algorithms to simulate social human interaction, by
retaining information on prior interactions and user preference, asking questions, providing advice,
and engaging in simulated conversation on matters of personal well-being. "AI companion" shall
not include any system used by a business entity solely intended to provide users with information
about available commercial services or products, customer account information, or other
information related to a user's customer, or potential customer relationship with such business
entity.

(2) "AI model" means a component of an information system that implements artificial
intelligence technology and uses computational, statistical, or machine-learning techniques to
produce outputs from a given set of inputs.

(3) "Artificial intelligence", "artificial intelligence technology", or "AI" means a machine-

1 based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions,
2 recommendations, or decisions influencing real or virtual environments, and that uses machine-
3 and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments, abstract such perceptions into
4 models through analysis in an automated manner, and use model inference to formulate options for
5 information or action.

6 (4) "Emotional recognition algorithms" means artificial intelligence that detects and
7 interprets human emotional signals in text (using natural language processing and sentiment
8 analysis), audio (using voice emotion AI), video (using facial movement analysis, gait analysis, or
9 physiological signals), or a combination thereof.

10 (5) "Generative artificial intelligence" means a class of AI models that are self-supervised
11 and emulate the structure and characteristics of input data to generate derived synthetic content
12 including, but not limited to, images, videos, audio, text, and other digital content.

13 (6) "Operator" means any person, partnership, association, firm, or business entity, or any
14 member, affiliate, subsidiary or beneficial owner of any partnership, association, firm, or business
15 entity who operates or provides an AI companion.

16 (7) "Person" means any natural person.

17 (8) "User" means any person who uses an AI companion within the state and who is not an
18 operator or agent or affiliate of the operator of the AI companion.

19 **6-63-2. Prohibitions and requirements.**

20 It shall be unlawful for any operator to operate or provide an AI companion to a user unless
21 such AI companion contains a protocol for addressing:

22 (1) Possible suicidal ideation or self-harm expressed by a user to the AI companion;

23 (2) Possible physical harm to others expressed by a user to the AI companion; and

24 (3) Possible financial harm to others expressed by the user to the AI companion that
25 includes, but is not limited to, a notification to the user that refers them to crisis service providers
26 such as a suicide hotline, crisis text line, or other appropriate crisis services.

27 **6-63-3. Notifications required.**

28 An operator shall provide a notification to a user at the beginning of any AI companion
29 interaction and at least every three (3) hours for continuing AI companion interactions hereafter,
30 which states either verbally or in bold and capitalized letters of at least sixteen (16) point type, the
31 following:

32 "THE AI COMPANION (OR NAME OF THE AI COMPANION) IS A COMPUTER
33 PROGRAM AND NOT A HUMAN BEING. IT IS UNABLE TO FEEL HUMAN EMOTION".

34 **6-63-4. Enforcement.**

1 (a) Any person who was physically injured through self-harm or was physically or
2 financially harmed by another because of a violation of §§ 6-63-2 and 6-63-3 may bring an action
3 in the superior court for damages, equitable relief, and such other remedies as the court may deem
4 appropriate.

5 (b) The attorney general shall be empowered to investigate, sue, and seek injunctions
6 against noncompliant AI companion providers including, but not limited to, the provisions of
7 chapter 13.1 of title 6 (deceptive trade practices).

8 **6-63-5. Consultation.**

9 The Rhode Island artificial intelligence (AI) task force shall continue to advise the governor
10 and the general assembly by assessing and promoting the development, implementation, and
11 regulation of artificial intelligence technologies within Rhode Island by understanding AI's
12 potential impact on various sectors, including business, education, healthcare, and government.

13 **6-63-6. Severability.**

14 If any provision of this chapter is declared unconstitutional or invalid, or the application of
15 any provision of this chapter to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of
16 the remainder of the chapter and its applicability to other persons and circumstances shall not be
17 affected thereby.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANION MODELS

- 1
- This act would create additional safety features for artificial intelligence (AI) companion
- 2
- technology including provisions addressing suicidal ideation, potential physical harm or financial
- 3
- harm to others expressed by a user. The act also requires notification that the AI companion does
- 4
- not have human emotions.
- 5
- This act would take effect on January 1, 2027.

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