

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to interactions with artificial
3 intelligence; creating s. 501.172, F.S.; providing
4 definitions; requiring operators of companion chatbot
5 platforms to display specified information on any
6 application, browser, or format used to access
7 companion chatbots on the platform and to prevent such
8 chatbots from interacting with users unless specified
9 protocols are maintained; requiring such operators to
10 verify the age of users and to take specified actions
11 for users who are minors; requiring such operators to
12 file specified reports with the Department of Legal
13 Affairs; providing that a violation constitutes an
14 unfair or deceptive act or practice; providing for
15 civil actions; providing construction; providing an
16 effective date.

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18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20 **Section 1. Section 501.172, Florida Statutes, is created**
21 **to read:**

22 501.172 Companion chatbots.—

23 (1) As used in this section, the term:

24 (a) "AI-generated" means any image, video, or audio that
25 is generated or modified by artificial intelligence which may

26 portray realistic human likenesses or depictions.

27 (b) "Companion chatbot" means an artificial intelligence
28 system with a natural language interface that provides adaptive,
29 human-like responses to user inputs and is capable of meeting a
30 user's social needs, including by exhibiting anthropomorphic
31 features and being able to sustain a relationship across
32 multiple interactions. The term does not include:

33 1. A bot used only for customer service, business
34 operational purposes, or productivity and analysis related to
35 source information, internal research, or technical assistance;

36 2. A bot that is a feature of a video game and is limited
37 to replies related to the video game and that cannot discuss
38 topics related to mental health, self-harm, sexually explicit
39 conduct, or maintain a dialogue on other topics unrelated to the
40 video game; or

41 3. A stand-alone consumer electronic device that functions
42 as a speaker and voice command interface, acts as a voice-
43 activated virtual assistant, and does not sustain a relationship
44 across multiple interactions or generate outputs that are likely
45 to elicit emotional responses in the user.

46 (c) "Operator" means a person who makes a companion
47 chatbot platform available to a user in this state.

48 (d) "Sexually explicit conduct" means actual or simulated
49 sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or
50 masochistic abuse, or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or

51 public area.

52 (2) An operator shall clearly and conspicuously display
53 the following notice on any application, browser, or other
54 format used to access companion chatbots on the operator's
55 platform: "Companion chatbots are AI-generated and not human.
56 Companion chatbots may not be suitable for some minors."

57 (3)(a) An operator shall prevent a companion chatbot on
58 the platform from interacting with users unless the operator
59 maintains a protocol to prevent the production of suicidal
60 ideation, suicide, or self-harm content.

61 (b) At a minimum, the protocol must include a notification
62 that refers the user to the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call
63 center if the user expresses suicidal ideation, or intent to
64 commit suicide or to self-harm.

65 (c) The protocol must include mechanisms to:

66 1. Detect, remove, and respond to expressions of suicidal
67 ideation, or intent to commit suicide or to self-harm by users.

68 2. Prohibit a companion chatbot from discussing suicidal
69 ideation, suicide, or self-harm with users.

70 3. Measure suicidal ideation by using evidence-based
71 methods.

72 (d) The operator shall publish the protocol on the
73 platform.

74 (4)(a) An operator must offer anonymous age verification
75 and standard age verification pursuant to s. 501.1737 for user

76 access to a companion chatbot on the platform.

77 (b) For a user the operator knows is a minor, the operator
78 shall do all of the following:

79 1. Disclose to the user that he or she is interacting with
80 artificial intelligence.

81 2. Provide a clear and conspicuous default notification at
82 least every 3 hours for continuing companion chatbot
83 interactions reminding the user to take a break from the
84 interaction and that the companion chatbot is AI-generated and
85 not human.

86 3. Implement reasonable measures to prevent a companion
87 chatbot from producing visual material of sexually explicit
88 conduct or directly stating that the user should engage in
89 sexually explicit conduct.

90 (5)(a) Beginning July 1, 2027, each operator shall submit
91 to the Department of Legal Affairs an annual report that
92 includes all of the following:

93 1. The number of times in the preceding calendar year the
94 operator has issued a 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call
95 center referral notification.

96 2. The protocol for detecting, removing, and responding to
97 expressions of suicidal ideation, or intent to commit suicide
98 or to self-harm by users.

99 3. The protocol for prohibiting a companion chatbot from
100 discussing suicidal ideation, suicide, or self-harm with users.

101 (b) The report may not include any identifiers or personal
102 information about users.

103 (6) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or
104 deceptive act or practice as specified in s. 501.204 and shall
105 be enforced by civil action by the Attorney General. The
106 Department of Legal Affairs must notify the operator of any
107 suspected violation and allow the operator 30 calendar days to
108 cure the alleged violation before initiating enforcement action.
109 This section does not create a private right of action.

110 (7) This section does not relieve an operator from any
111 duties, remedies, or obligations imposed by any other law.

112 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.