



Senate Bill No. 417

Special Act No. 26-23

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1) "artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that makes predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments, (2) "artificial intelligence technology" means a computer system, application or other product that uses or incorporates one or more forms of artificial intelligence, and (3) "financial assistance" means any and all forms of grants, extensions of credit, loans or loan guarantees, equity investments or other forms of financing.

(b) The Department of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, public institutions of higher education or any other public entity that the Department of Economic and Community Development deems necessary, shall develop a plan to establish an artificial intelligence small business program for the purpose of (1) providing financial assistance to eligible small businesses to adopt and deploy artificial intelligence to achieve improvements in productivity and the quality of any products or

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services offered by such small businesses, and (2) establishing a competitive small business environment for the development and deployment of artificial intelligence technologies. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, eligibility criteria and an application process with guidelines and terms for financial assistance for the program, and a requirement that, as a condition of receiving financial assistance, any applicant train such applicant's employees to work with artificial intelligence and prepare any such employees, whose jobs may be displaced as a result of the adoption of artificial intelligence, for new roles with the applicant.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Department of Economic and Community Development shall report on such plan, including any recommendations for legislative action required to implement such plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.