



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5841



Offered by:

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5342

File No. 517

Cal. No. 337

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
AND OTHER MEANS TO GENERATE DECEPTIVE SYNTHETIC
MEDIA AND AFFECT ELECTIONS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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

4 (1) "Candidate" means any individual who seeks nomination for
5 election, or election to public office whether or not such individual is
6 elected;

7 (2) "Deceptive synthetic media" means any image, audio or video of
8 an individual, and any representation of such individual's speech or
9 conduct that is substantially derived from any such image, audio or
10 video, which a reasonable person would believe depicts the speech or
11 conduct of such individual when such individual did not in fact engage
12 in such speech or conduct;

13 (3) "Election" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-1 of the

14 general statutes;

15 (4) "Individual" means a human being;

16 (5) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-601 of the
17 general statutes; and

18 (6) "Primary" has the same meaning as provided in section 9-372 of
19 the general statutes.

20 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, no person shall
21 distribute, or enter into any agreement to distribute, a communication
22 containing any image, audio or video of an individual during the
23 ninety-day period preceding any election or primary if:

24 (1) Such person (A) knows or should reasonably know that such
25 image, audio or video is deceptive synthetic media, or (B) in the case
26 where the individual depicted therein is a public official or public figure,
27 acts with reckless disregard as to whether such image, audio or video is
28 deceptive synthetic media;

29 (2) The communication containing such deceptive synthetic media is
30 distributed without the consent of such individual; and

31 (3) Such distribution is intended to injure a candidate or influence the
32 result of such election or primary.

33 (c) A person may distribute, or enter into an agreement to distribute,
34 a communication containing deceptive synthetic media during the
35 ninety-day period preceding a primary or election if:

36 (1) For such deceptive synthetic media that:

37 (A) Is an image or consists only of an image, (i) a disclaimer stating
38 "This communication contains an image that has been manipulated" or
39 "This image has been manipulated", as applicable, or words to that
40 effect, appears in text that is clearly visible to and easily readable by the
41 average viewer, and (ii) in the case of any such image that was generated

42 by editing or manipulating an existing image, a citation directing such
43 viewer to the original source from which the unedited or
44 unmanipulated version of such existing image was obtained is included;

45 (B) Consists only of audio, (i) a disclaimer stating "This
46 communication contains audio that has been manipulated", or words to
47 that effect, is read in a clearly spoken manner, in a pitch that can be
48 easily heard by the average listener and in the same language as the
49 deceptive synthetic media and any other language such person should
50 reasonably expect such listener to speak or understand, and which
51 disclaimer is read at the beginning of such communication, at the end of
52 such communication and, if such communication is greater than one
53 minute in length, interspersed within such communication at not less
54 frequently than thirty-second intervals, and (ii) in the case of any such
55 audio that was generated by editing or manipulating existing audio, a
56 citation directing such listener to the original source from which the
57 unedited or unmanipulated version of such existing audio was obtained
58 is included; or

59 (C) Is a video, (i) a disclaimer stating "This communication contains
60 video that has been manipulated", or words to that effect, appears in text
61 that is clearly visible to and easily readable by the average viewer and
62 is in the same language as the deceptive synthetic media and any other
63 language such person should reasonably expect such viewer to speak or
64 understand, and which disclaimer appears for the duration of such
65 communication, and (ii) in the case of any such video that was generated
66 by editing or manipulating an existing video, a citation directing such
67 viewer to the original source from which the unedited or
68 unmanipulated version of such existing video was obtained is included;
69 or

70 (2) Such person is:

71 (A) A radio station or television station, whether broadcast, cable or
72 satellite and including, but not limited to, any producer or programmer
73 or any certified competitive video service provider, community antenna

74 television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority
75 or holder of a certificate of video franchise authority, as those terms are
76 defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, or a streaming or other
77 digital broadcast service provider, that:

78 (i) Broadcasts such communication containing deceptive synthetic
79 media (I) as part of a bona fide newscast, news interview, commentary
80 of general interest, news documentary or other on-the-spot coverage of
81 bona fide news events, or (II) in compliance with federal law that
82 requires such person to broadcast such communication;

83 (ii) (I) Retains the disclaimer upon such communication required
84 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (II) except in the case of any
85 such on-the-spot coverage, adds such a disclaimer at the time of such
86 broadcast if such communication did not previously include such a
87 disclaimer; and

88 (iii) (I) Except in the case of any such on-the-spot coverage for which
89 such person does not have reason to believe that such communication
90 contains deceptive synthetic media, clearly states in the content of such
91 broadcast that such communication contains deceptive synthetic media;
92 or

93 (II) In the case where such person does not have actual knowledge
94 that such communication contains deceptive synthetic media and does
95 not remove any previously included disclaimer upon such
96 communication, expressly acknowledges in the content of such
97 broadcast or through some other contemporaneous disclosure, and in a
98 manner that is clearly visible to the average viewer or can be easily
99 heard by the average listener, as applicable, that the authenticity of such
100 communication is questionable; or

101 (B) An Internet web site or regularly published newspaper, magazine
102 or other periodical of general circulation, including, but not limited to,
103 any regularly published periodical of general circulation that is
104 published electronically or on the Internet, that:

105 (i) Publishes such communication containing deceptive synthetic
106 media as part of such person's routine carriage of news and commentary
107 of general interest,

108 (ii) (I) Retains the disclaimer upon such communication required
109 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (II) adds such a disclaimer at
110 the time of such publication if such communication did not previously
111 include such a disclaimer; and

112 (iii) (I) Clearly states in the content of such publication that such
113 communication contains deceptive synthetic media; or

114 (II) In the case where such person does not have actual knowledge
115 that such communication contains deceptive synthetic media and does
116 not remove any previously included disclaimer upon such
117 communication, expressly acknowledges in the content of such
118 publication or through some other contemporaneous disclosure, and in
119 a manner that is clearly visible to and easily readable by the average
120 viewer, that the authenticity of such communication is questionable.

121 (d) Whenever a person purchases advertising space for the broadcast
122 of a communication described in section 9-621 of the general statutes,
123 which broadcast is by an entity described in subparagraph (A) of
124 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, such entity shall not be
125 liable under this section, provided such entity has made a good faith
126 effort to determine that the communication does not contain deceptive
127 synthetic media, which good faith effort shall be presumed if such entity
128 (1) receives from the purchaser an attestation under penalties of false
129 statement that such purchaser has not provided for broadcast or will not
130 provide for broadcast, as applicable, any communication containing
131 deceptive synthetic media, and (2) subsequent to receipt of such
132 attestation, does not develop actual knowledge that the communication
133 contains deceptive synthetic media and continues to distribute such
134 communication.

135 (e) (1) If an individual violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this

136 section with knowledge that the communication contains deceptive
137 synthetic media and intent to distribute such communication to an
138 audience, and such audience exceeds one thousand individuals, such
139 individual shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor, except that:

140 (A) If such violation was committed with intent to (i) cause violence
141 or bodily harm, or (ii) distribute a communication containing deceptive
142 synthetic media to an audience of ten thousand individuals, and such
143 audience exceeds ten thousand individuals, such individual shall be
144 guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and

145 (B) If such violation was committed less than five years after a prior
146 conviction under subsection (b) of this section, such individual shall be
147 guilty of a class D felony.

148 (2) Any penalty imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection
149 shall be in addition to any injunctive or other equitable relief or any
150 general or special damages ordered under subsection (f) of this section.

151 (f) (1) (A) An individual described in subsection (b) of this section, or
152 a candidate who alleges that such candidate has been or is likely to be
153 injured by the distribution of a communication containing deceptive
154 synthetic media in violation of the provisions of said subsection, may
155 commence a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction seeking to
156 permanently enjoin any person whose violation of the provisions of said
157 subsection is reasonably believed to be imminent, or who is in the course
158 of violating the provisions of said subsection, and other equitable relief.

159 (B) An individual described in subsection (b) of this section, or a
160 candidate who has been injured by the distribution of a communication
161 containing deceptive synthetic media in violation of the provisions of
162 said subsection, may commence a civil action in a court of competent
163 jurisdiction seeking to recover general or special damages resulting
164 from such distribution.

165 (2) In any civil action commenced under subdivision (1) of this
166 subsection, the plaintiff shall bear the burden of proving by clear and

167 convincing evidence that the defendant distributed, or will imminently
168 distribute, a communication containing deceptive synthetic media in
169 violation of the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

170 (3) Any party who prevails in a civil action commenced under
171 subdivision (1) of this subsection may be awarded reasonable attorney's
172 fees and costs to be taxed by the court.

173 (g) (1) The provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of this section
174 shall not apply to (A) any image, audio or video of an individual, or any
175 representation of an individual's speech or conduct that is substantially
176 derived from an image, audio or video, that constitutes parody or satire,
177 provided a reasonable person would not believe that such individual in
178 fact engaged in speech or conduct as depicted in such image, audio or
179 video, or (B) any political advertising or campaign communication the
180 distribution of which is required by law, including, but not limited to,
181 47 USC 315 and any rule or regulation prescribed thereunder, as
182 amended from time to time.

183 (2) It shall not be a violation of the provisions of subsection (b) of this
184 section for a person who is required to distribute, or who is required to
185 enter into an agreement to distribute, any communication containing
186 deceptive synthetic media to do so for the purpose of complying with
187 the prohibition set forth in 47 USC 315, or any rule or regulation
188 prescribed thereunder, as amended from time to time, against
189 censorship over the material broadcast by a legally qualified candidate,
190 as defined in 47 CFR 73.1940, as amended from time to time.

191 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on a
192 person engaged in the provision of (A) broadband Internet service, as
193 defined in 47 CFR 8, as amended from time to time, or a
194 telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a of the general
195 statutes, for the transmission of content provided by another person or
196 for the routine delivery of an electronic mail message, as defined in
197 section 53-454 of the general statutes, (B) direct-to-home satellite
198 services, as defined in 47 USC 303, as amended from time to time, or any

199 affiliate of a person providing the services described in this
200 subparagraph, or (C) cable service, as defined in 47 USC 522, as
201 amended from time to time, for the transmission of content provided by
202 another person."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section