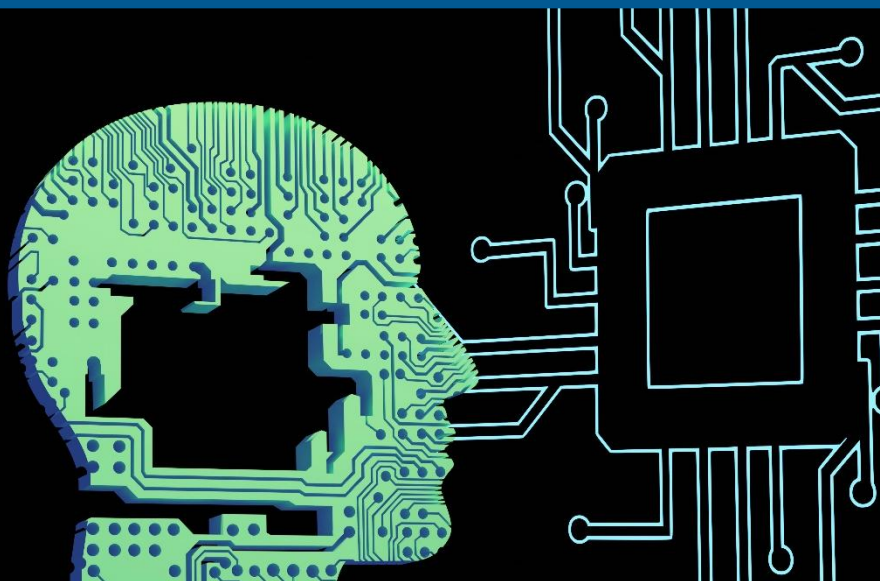




2026 Artificial Intelligence Legislation

Summary

This session, the legislature passed a law establishing several programs related to artificial intelligence (AI), including pilot programs to evaluate the use of an independent verification program and a technology fellowship pilot with the attorney general.

It also added new AI-related requirements, including requiring:

- employers, AI companion operators, and others to make AI-related disclosures;
- certain AI providers with more than 1 million users per month to include embedded metadata;
- the state's economic strategic plan to consider AI innovations; and
- AI-related training for teachers and students

([PA 26-15](#), as amended by [PA 26-100](#))

Generative AI Subscription Disclosures

[PA 26-15](#), § 1, as amended by [PA 26-100](#), § 46, prohibits in-state providers of generative AI from entering or renewing a subscription or collecting payment unless they give consumers a written notice disclosing the subscription's key terms and conditions and the consumer accepts them in writing.

“Generative AI” is any technology that uses machine learning to generate images, audio, or video, including any system using deep learning, natural language processing, or other computational processing techniques of similar or greater complexity.

Regulatory Sandbox Plan

The new law requires the economic and community development commissioner to develop a plan to create an AI regulatory sandbox (a program to allow testing with reduced requirements).

The commissioner must contact established programs to assess the feasibility of a reciprocal multi-state program ([PA 26-15](#), § 3).



Frontier Developer Whistleblower Protections

The legislation prohibits frontier developers (those that train large-scale AI models using a large quantity of computing power) from disciplining or penalizing a whistleblower employee, or certain other employees, for reporting the developer for doing something that poses a catastrophic risk to public health or safety (for example, a material contribution to the death of 50 or more people or more than \$1 billion in damage to or loss of covered property).

It also requires large frontier developers (those that had annual gross revenues of more than \$500 million last year) to establish and maintain a reasonable internal process for anonymous reporting of certain catastrophic risks (PA 26-15, § 2).



Independent Verification Pilot Program

PA 26-15, § 33, as amended by PA 26-100, § 47, requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to develop and administer a pilot program to evaluate the use of independent, third-party verification programs for assessing whether AI models adhere to standards reflecting best practices for preventing personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms, and other harms.

The law also:

- allows DCP to approve up to five entities for the pilot program;
- requires UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy to evaluate, report on, and make recommendations related to the program; and
- ends the pilot program on March 31, 2031.

**Learn
More**

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL): [New Trends Emerge as States Refine AI Legislation](#) (Jan. 2026)
NCSL, [State AI and Related Terms Definition Examples](#) (Feb. 2026)

Connecticut Laws on Artificial Intelligence, Data Privacy, and Technology Implementation, OLR Report [2026-R-0146](#)
Congressional Research Service: [Artificial Intelligence: CRS Products](#)



AI Companions

The new law generally requires AI companion operators to:

- include a protocol with detection methods for specified user expressions (such as self-harm) and
- give certain notices at specified timeframes to a user disclosing that the user is communicating with an AI companion.

It also prohibits operators from providing an AI companion to minors if the companion is capable of certain actions (for example, encouraging self-harm, discouraging seeking help, and offering certain mental health services).

An “AI companion” is generally any AI format with a natural language interface that (1) gives adaptive, human-like responses to user inputs, and (2) can sustain a relationship across multiple interactions (PA 26-15, §§ 4-6).



Automated Employment-related Decision Technology

The 2026 legislation requires those who use certain automated technology as a substantial factor in making employment-related decisions to give certain disclosures and written notice to employees and applicants.

It also specifies that an employer's use of this technology to make decisions is not a defense to claims of discriminatory practices against someone based on certain traits (for example, race, religion, or gender identity) (PA 26-15, §§ 7-14).

