

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1742

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER.

4172H.01I

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to companion chatbots.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 1, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 1.2055, to read as follows:

**1.2055. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

(1) "Artificial intelligence", an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments;

(2) "Companion chatbot", an artificial intelligence system with a natural language interface that provides adaptive, human-like responses to user inputs and is capable of meeting a user's social needs, which includes exhibiting anthropomorphic features and sustaining a relationship across multiple interactions. A "companion chatbot" does not include the following:

(a) A bot that is used only for customer service, a business's operational purpose, productivity, and analysis related to source information, internal research, or technical assistance;

(b) A bot that is a feature of a video game and is limited to replies related to the video game. Limited video game replies include replies that cannot discuss topics related to mental health, self-harm, or sexually explicit conduct or maintain a dialogue on other topics unrelated to the video game; or

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           (c) A stand-alone consumer electronic device that functions as a speaker and  
19 voice command interface, acts as a voice-activated virtual assistant, and does not sustain  
20 a relationship across multiple interactions or generate outputs that are likely to elicit  
21 emotional responses in the user;

22           (3) "Covered platform", any person who provides companion chatbot services to  
23 a user in this state;

24           (4) "Minor", an individual under eighteen years of age.

25           2. It shall be unlawful for a person who owns or controls a website, application,  
26 software, or program to allow a minor to access a companion chatbot for recreational,  
27 relational, or companion purposes. A person who offers companion chatbot services for  
28 recreational, relational, or companion purposes shall require an individual to provide  
29 proof of the individual's age before allowing the individual to access a companion  
30 chatbot. No companion chatbot shall be installed on any device assigned to, or regularly  
31 used by, anyone who is a minor.

32           3. Any person who owns or controls a website, application, software, or  
33 program:

34           (1) Shall not process data or design systems in ways that deceive or mislead users  
35 of such website, application, software, or program regarding the nonhuman nature of  
36 the companion chatbot;

37           (2) Shall implement and maintain reasonably effective systems to detect and  
38 prevent emotional dependence of a user on a companion chatbot. Such systems shall  
39 apply to any covered platform that utilizes a companion chatbot designed to generate  
40 social connections with users, engages in extended conversations mimicking human  
41 interactions, or provides emotional support or companionship; and

42           (3) Shall not implement or allow the use of a human-like avatar, including  
43 cartoon- or anime-like representations of humans.

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