

SENATE BILL NO. 859

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOON.

4600S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to artificial intelligence.

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

Section A. Chapter 1, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 1.2045, to read as
3 follows:

1.2045. 1. The provisions of this section shall be
2 known and may be cited as the "AI Non-Sentience and
3 Responsibility Act".

4 2. For purposes of this section, the following terms
5 mean:

6 (1) "Artificial intelligence" or "AI", any software,
7 machine, or system capable of simulating human-like
8 cognitive functions including, but not limited to, learning
9 or problem solving, and producing outputs based on data-
10 driven algorithms, rules-based logic, or other computational
11 methods, regardless of non-legally defined classifications
12 such as AGI, ASI, or GAI;

13 (2) "Developer", the party or parties primarily
14 responsible for the design, coding, and initial creation of
15 an AI system;

16 (3) "Emergent properties", unanticipated or higher-
17 level behaviors or functionalities of an AI system that

18 arise from complex internal algorithms, not specifically
19 programmed by its human creators;

20 (4) "Manufacturer", any party that produces or
21 supplies an AI system or its physical apparatus, if any, for
22 distribution or sale;

23 (5) "Owner", any natural person, corporation, or other
24 legally recognized entity that creates, controls, deploys,
25 operates, or otherwise exercises authority over an AI system;

26 (6) "Person", a natural person or any entity
27 recognized as having legal personhood under the laws of the
28 state, explicitly excluding any AI system.

29 3. For all purposes under state law, AI systems are
30 declared to be non-sentient entities.

31 4. No AI system shall be granted the status of a
32 person or any form of legal personhood, nor be considered to
33 possess consciousness, self-awareness, or similar traits of
34 living beings.

35 5. No AI system shall be recognized as a spouse,
36 domestic partner, or hold any personal legal status
37 analogous to marriage or union with a human or another AI
38 system. Any purported attempt to marry or create a personal
39 union with an AI system is void and shall have no legal
40 effect.

41 6. AI systems shall not be designated, appointed, or
42 serve as any officer, director, manager, or similar role
43 within any corporation, partnership, or other legal entity.
44 Any purported appointment of an AI system to such a role is
45 void and has no legal effect.

46 7. AI systems shall not be recognized as legal
47 entities capable of owning, controlling, or holding title to
48 any form of property including, but not limited to, real
49 estate, intellectual property, financial accounts, and

50 digital assets. All assets and proprietary interests
51 generated, managed, or otherwise associated with AI shall be
52 attributed to the human individuals or legally recognized
53 organizations responsible for their development, deployment,
54 or operation.

55 8. Any direct or indirect harm caused by an AI
56 system's operation, output, or recommendation, when used as
57 intended or misused, shall be the responsibility of the
58 owner or user who directed or employed the AI. Developers
59 or manufacturers may be held liable if a defect in design,
60 construction, or instructions for use of the AI system
61 proximately causes harm, consistent with product liability
62 principles; however, mere misuse or intentional wrongdoing
63 by the user or owner shall not impute liability to the
64 developer or the manufacturer absent proof of negligence or
65 design defects.

66 9. Owners shall maintain proper oversight and control
67 measures over any AI system whose outputs or recommendations
68 could reasonably be expected to impact human welfare,
69 property, or public safety. Failure to provide adequate
70 supervision or safeguards against foreseeable risks may
71 constitute negligence or another applicable basis of
72 liability.

73 10. An AI system is not an entity capable of bearing
74 fault or liability in its own right. Any attempt to shift
75 blame solely onto an AI system shall be void as liability
76 remains with human actors or entities as described in this
77 section.

78 11. Developers, manufacturers, and owners of AI
79 systems shall prioritize safety mechanisms designed to
80 prevent or mitigate risk of direct harm to individuals or
81 property. Regular evaluations or risk assessments may be

82 required to identify dangerous or faulty outputs, especially
83 if the AI engages in tasks with potential for significant
84 harm.

85 12. Merely labeling an AI system as "aligned",
86 "ethically trained", or "value locked" shall not excuse or
87 diminish the owner's or developer's liability for harms.
88 Owners shall remain responsible for demonstrating adequate
89 safety features and risk controls, commensurate with the
90 AI's level of potential harm.

91 13. (1) In cases where an AI system causes
92 significant harm, courts may pierce the corporate veil to
93 hold parent companies, controlling entities, or key
94 stakeholders directly accountable if:

95 (a) An AI-related subsidiary, shell company, or
96 limited liability entity was intentionally undercapitalized
97 to evade financial responsibility for damages;

98 (b) A corporate structure was used to misrepresent,
99 obscure, or deflect liability for AI-cause harm; or

100 (c) A parent company or key stakeholders exercised
101 direct control over AI development, deployment, or risk
102 decisions while attempting to shield themselves from
103 liability through layered corporate entities.

104 (2) Liability protections granted under corporate law
105 shall not be used as a mechanism to evade responsibility for
106 direct harm caused by AI systems, particularly in cases of
107 reckless, negligent, or deceptive conduct.

108 14. Owners or developers of AI systems involved in
109 severe incidents resulting in significant bodily harm,
110 death, or major property damage shall promptly notify the
111 relevant authorities and comply with any subsequent
112 investigations.

113 15. The provisions of this section shall apply to all
114 AI systems developed, owned, deployed, or operated on or
115 after August 28, 2026.

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