

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: S4/9/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1958

5 By: Representative S. Meeks  
6 By: Senator J. English  
7

### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO CREATE A POLICY  
10 CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZED USE OF ARTIFICIAL  
11 INTELLIGENCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
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### Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE PUBLIC ENTITIES TO CREATE A  
16 POLICY CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZED USE OF  
17 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.  
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-1-128(a) – (e), as amended by Acts 2025,  
22 No. 205, concerning the creation of a policy regarding use of technology  
23 resources and cybersecurity by public entities, are amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1) "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that  
27 can, based on a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions,  
28 recommendations, or decisions influencing a real or virtual environment;

29 (2) "Automated decision tool" means a system or service that  
30 uses artificial intelligence and has been specifically developed and  
31 marketed, or specifically modified, to make or to be a controlling factor in  
32 making consequential decisions;

33 ~~(1)~~(3) "Employee" means a person employed by a public entity;

34 ~~(2)~~(4) "Public entity" means an instrumentality funded in whole  
35 or in part by taxpayer funds, including without limitation:

36 (A) The Department of Agriculture;



- 1 (B) The Department of Commerce;  
 2 (C) The Department of Corrections;  
 3 (D) The Department of Education;  
 4 (E) The Department of Energy and Environment;  
 5 (F) The Department of Finance and Administration;  
 6 (G) The Department of Health;  
 7 (H) The Department of Human Services;  
 8 (I) The Department of Inspector General;  
 9 (J) The Department of Labor and Licensing;  
 10 (K) The Department of the Military;  
 11 (L) The Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism;  
 12 (M) The Department of Public Safety;  
 13 (N) The Department of Transformation and Shared  
 14 Administrative Services;  
 15 (O) The Department of Veterans Affairs;  
 16 (P) The office of a constitutional officer;  
 17 (Q) A political subdivision of the state;  
 18 (R) A public school district;  
 19 (S) A public school district board of directors;  
 20 (T) An open-enrollment public charter school;  
 21 (U) An institution of higher education;  
 22 (V) The State Highway Commission;  
 23 (W) The Arkansas Department of Transportation; or  
 24 (X) The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

25 ~~(3)~~(5) “State educational entity” means an entity with an  
 26 educational purpose that is funded in whole or in part by taxpayer funds that  
 27 is, including without limitation:

- 28 (A) A public school district;  
 29 (B) A public school district board of directors; and  
 30 (C) An open-enrollment charter school;

31 ~~(4)~~(6) “State entity” means:

- 32 (A) The Department of Agriculture;  
 33 (B) The Department of Commerce;  
 34 (C) The Department of Corrections;  
 35 (D) The Department of Education;  
 36 (E) The Department of Energy and Environment;

- 1 (F) The Department of Finance and Administration;  
2 (G) The Department of Health;  
3 (H) The Department of Human Services;  
4 (I) The Department of Inspector General;  
5 (J) The Department of Labor and Licensing;  
6 (K) The Department of the Military;  
7 (L) The Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism;  
8 (M) The Department of Public Safety;  
9 (N) The Department of Shared Administrative Services;  
10 (O) The Department of Veterans Affairs;  
11 (P) The State Highway Commission;  
12 (Q) The Arkansas Department of Transportation;  
13 (R) The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission; and  
14 (S) An institution of higher education; and

15 ~~(5)~~(7) "Technology resources" means:

- 16 (A) The machines, devices, and transmission facilities  
17 used in information processing, including computers, word processors,  
18 terminals, telephones, cables, software, and related products;  
19 (B) The devices used to process information through  
20 electronic capture, collection, storage, manipulation, transmission,  
21 retrieval, and presentation of information in the form of data, text, voice,  
22 or image and includes telecommunications and office automation functions;  
23 (C) Any component related to information processing and  
24 wired and wireless telecommunications, including data processing and  
25 telecommunications hardware, software, services, planning, personnel,  
26 facilities, and training;  
27 (D) The procedures, equipment, and software that are  
28 designed, built, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store,  
29 retrieve, display, and transmit information, and the associated personnel,  
30 including consultants and contractors; and  
31 (E) All ~~electronic mail~~ email accounts issued by a public  
32 entity.

33 (b) A public entity shall:

- 34 (1) Create a technology resources policy that defines the  
35 authorized use of technology resources for the public entity;  
36 (2)(A) Develop a cybersecurity policy for all technology

1 resources of the public entity based on the standards and guidelines set by  
2 the State Cybersecurity Office.

3 (B) Subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall not apply  
4 to political subdivisions of the state; ~~and~~

5 (3) Create an artificial intelligence and automated decision  
6 tool policy that:

7 (A) Defines the authorized use of artificial intelligence  
8 and automated decision tools for the public entity; and

9 (B) Requires an authorized human employee or designee to  
10 make any final decision in the course of his or her employment, regardless of  
11 what artificial intelligence or automated decision tool the employee or  
12 designee recommends; and

13 ~~(3)(4)(A)~~ Develop a training program for all employees of the  
14 public entity concerning the technology resources policy, ~~and the~~  
15 cybersecurity policy, and the artificial intelligence and automated decision  
16 tool policy, including training on the appropriate use of artificial  
17 intelligence and automated decision tools in deciding an outcome in the  
18 course of an employee's employment.

19 (B) A political subdivision of the state is not required  
20 to develop a training program under this section for a cybersecurity policy.

21 (c)(1) The technology resources policy and artificial intelligence and  
22 automated decision tool policy for each state entity shall be available to  
23 the public upon request.

24 (2) The Department of Education, in coordination with the State  
25 Cybersecurity Office, shall:

26 (A) Develop technology resources and artificial  
27 intelligence and automated decision tool policies that shall be used by each  
28 type of state educational institution; and

29 (B) Make the policies developed under subdivision  
30 (c)(2)(A) of this section available to the public upon request.

31 (d) Each technology resources and artificial intelligence and  
32 automated decision tool policy shall include prohibitions on the use of a  
33 public entity's technology resources and artificial intelligence and  
34 automated decision tools, including without limitation that a public entity's  
35 technology resources shall not be used to:

36 (1) Express a personal political opinion to an elected official

1 unless the opinion is:

2 (A) Within the scope of the employee's regular job duties;

3 or

4 (B) Requested by an elected official or public entity;

5 (2) Engage in lobbying an elected official on a personal opinion  
6 if the employee is not a registered lobbyist for the public entity;

7 (3) Engage in illegal activities or activities otherwise  
8 prohibited by federal law or state law; or

9 (4) Intentionally override or avoid the security and system  
10 integrity procedures of the public entity.

11 (e) A public entity shall create a disciplinary procedure for a  
12 violation of the public entity's technology resources and artificial  
13 intelligence and automated decision tool policy concerning authorized use of  
14 technology resources.

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16 /s/S. Meeks  
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