



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4447



Offered by:

SEN. HARTLEY, 15<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. MESKERS, 150<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. ANISKOVICH, 35<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 417

File No. 499

Cal. No. 311

**"AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM."**

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

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)  
4 "artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that makes  
5 predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual  
6 environments, (2) "artificial intelligence technology" means a computer  
7 system, application or other product that uses or incorporates one or  
8 more forms of artificial intelligence, and (3) "financial assistance" means  
9 any and all forms of grants, extensions of credit, loans or loan  
10 guarantees, equity investments or other forms of financing.

11 (b) The Department of Economic and Community Development, in

12 consultation with other relevant state agencies, as it deems necessary,  
13 shall develop a plan to establish an artificial intelligence small business  
14 program for the purpose of (1) providing financial assistance to eligible  
15 small businesses to adopt and deploy artificial intelligence to achieve  
16 improvements in productivity and the quality of any products or  
17 services offered by such small businesses, and (2) establishing a  
18 competitive small business environment for the development and  
19 deployment of artificial intelligence technologies. Such plan shall  
20 include, but need not be limited to, eligibility criteria and an application  
21 process with guidelines and terms for financial assistance for the  
22 program, and a requirement that, as a condition of receiving financial  
23 assistance, any applicant train such applicant's employees to work with  
24 artificial intelligence and prepare any such employees, whose jobs may  
25 be displaced as a result of the adoption of artificial intelligence, for new  
26 roles with the applicant.

27 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Department of Economic and  
28 Community Development shall report on such plan, including any  
29 recommendations for legislative action required to implement such  
30 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
31 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
32 having cognizance of matters relating to commerce."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section