
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 156 (H.816). An act relating to regulating the use of artificial intelligence in the provision of mental health services

Subjects: Health; mental health; professional regulation; artificial intelligence; therapeutic services

This act prohibits a corporation or entity from providing, advertising, or otherwise offering mental health services, including through the use of artificial intelligence, to the public unless the mental health services are either provided by a mental health professional or part of an approved institutional review board or privacy board study. It does not preclude a mental health professional who is operating within the professional's scope of practice from utilizing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act-compliant artificial intelligence tools if the mental health professional first reviews and approves any mental health services, including software-based medical products authorized or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration where the product's use is prescribed or recommended by a mental health professional.

Violations of this act by a corporation or entity are enforceable under the Consumer Protection Act. This act also specifies that engaging in the prohibited use of artificial intelligence by a mental health professional is enforceable under either the Office of Professional Regulation's or the Board of Medical Practice's unprofessional conduct statutes, respectively.

This act adds the Director of Professional Regulation or designee and the Executive Director of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice or designee to the membership of the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council. Lastly, it requires the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council to submit a report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2027, regarding the regulation of the use of artificial intelligence by mental health professionals.

Effective Date: June 17, 2026