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H.410

Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Christie of Hartford, Sibilina
of Dover, and Toleno of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Executive; Governor; Artificial Intelligence Commission

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
Artificial Intelligence Commission to support the ethical use and development
of artificial intelligence in the State.

An act relating to the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Commission

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS; INTENT

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The Vermont Artificial Intelligence Task Force (Task Force),
established by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 137, as amended by 2019 Acts and
Resolves No. 61, met from September 2018 through January 2020 to
investigate the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and make recommendations
for State action and policies with respect to this new technology.

(2) The Task Force found that this technology presents tremendous
opportunities for economic growth and improved quality of life but also

1 presents substantial risks of loss of some jobs and invasions of privacy and
2 other impacts to civil liberties.

3 (3) Large-scale technological change makes states rivals for the
4 economic rewards, where inaction leaves states behind. States can become
5 leaders in crafting appropriate responses to technological change that
6 eventually produces policy and action around the country.

7 (4) The Task Force determined that there are steps that the State can
8 take to maximize the opportunities and reduce the risk, but action must be
9 taken now. The Task Force concluded that there is a role for local and State
10 action, especially where national and international action is not occurring.

11 (5) The final report of the Task Force presents a series of
12 recommendations for policies and actions consistent with the limited role of
13 Vermont to direct the path of AI development and use in the State. The final
14 report also concludes that Vermont can make a difference, maximize the
15 benefits of AI, and minimize, or adapt to, the adverse consequences.

16 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to carry out the work of the
17 Task Force by creating the Artificial Intelligence Commission to implement
18 the other recommendations of the Task Force and make the State a leader in
19 the United States and globally by promoting the development and use of
20 ethical AI technology in Vermont.

1 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. chapter 69 is added to read:

2 CHAPTER 69. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION

3 § 5111. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION

4 (a) Definition. As used in this section, “artificial intelligence systems”
5 means systems capable of perceiving an environment through data acquisition
6 and then processing and interpreting the derived information to take an action
7 or actions or to imitate intelligent behavior given a specific goal. An artificial
8 intelligence system can also learn and adapt its behavior by analyzing how the
9 environment is affected by prior actions.

10 (b) Creation. There is created an independent commission named the
11 Artificial Intelligence Commission to study and monitor all aspects of artificial
12 intelligence systems in Vermont.

13 (c) Membership. The Commission shall be composed of the following
14 16 members:

15 (1) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or
16 designee;

17 (2) the Secretary of Digital Services or designee;

18 (3) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

19 (4) the Secretary of Transportation or designee;

20 (5) one member to represent the interests of workers appointed by the
21 President of the Vermont State Labor Council, AFL-CIO;

1 (6) the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of
2 Vermont or designee;

3 (7) one member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

4 (8) one member from the House, appointed by the Speaker;

5 (9) one member from the Senate, appointed by the Committee on
6 Committees;

7 (10) two members who are academics at a postsecondary institute, with
8 one appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the Committee on
9 Committees;

10 (11) one member with experience in the field of ethics and human
11 rights, appointed by the Vermont chapter of the National Association of Social
12 Workers;

13 (12) one member appointed by the Vermont Society of Engineers;

14 (13) one member appointed by the Vermont Academy of Science and
15 Engineering;

16 (14) one member who is a secondary or postsecondary student in
17 Vermont, appointed by the Governor; and

18 (15) one member appointed by the Vermont Medical Society.

19 (d) Powers and duties. The Commission shall study and monitor the
20 growth of artificial intelligence systems in Vermont, including the following:

1 (1) adopt, publicize, and monitor a State code of ethics for artificial
2 intelligence systems;

3 (2) make recommendations to the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
4 Branches on policies, laws, and regulations for artificial intelligence systems;

5 (3) report to the Office of the Governor, the House Committees on
6 Commerce and Economic Development, on Energy and Technology, and on
7 Government Operations, and the Senate Committees on Economic
8 Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Government
9 Operations, on or before January 15 each year, on the following:

10 (A) existing and future economic opportunities for artificial
11 intelligence systems available in Vermont and any policies or legislative
12 actions necessary to maximize those opportunities;

13 (B) the extent of use of artificial intelligence systems by State
14 government and any actions needed to optimize that usage;

15 (C) the impact of using artificial intelligence systems in Vermont on
16 the privacy interests of citizens and any necessary policies to protect the
17 privacy and interests of Vermonters from any diminution caused by
18 employment of artificial intelligence systems by State government or the
19 private sector;

1 (D) the impact of artificial intelligence systems on jobs and incomes
2 in Vermont and any necessary policies to protect jobs and incomes from any
3 adverse effects of using artificial intelligence systems in Vermont;

4 (E) the state of education on artificial intelligence systems in the
5 Vermont primary, secondary, and higher education systems, and the current
6 level of education, including education of ethics on artificial intelligence
7 systems; and

8 (F) any other information the Commission deems appropriate based
9 on its work and any other recommendations from the Vermont Artificial
10 Intelligence Task Force Report of 2020.

11 (e) Meetings. Meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chair.

12 (f) Quorum. Nine members shall constitute a quorum of the Commission.
13 Once a quorum has been established, the vote of a majority of the members
14 present at the time of the vote shall be an act of the Commission.

15 (g) Reimbursement. Members of the Commission who are not employees
16 of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed
17 for their attendance shall be entitled to compensation and expenses as provided
18 in 32 V.S.A. § 1010. Payment to the members shall be from the appropriation
19 to the Agency of Human Services.

1 § 5112. TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR; POSITION

2 (a) There is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community
3 Development the position of Technology Director to manage and implement
4 the work of the Artificial Intelligence Commission established in section 5111
5 of this title.

6 (b) The Technology Director shall have the administrative, legal, and
7 technical support of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

8 Sec. 3. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION; REPORT

9 On or before January 15, 2022, the Commission shall include the following
10 in its report required under 3 V.S.A. § 5111(d)(3):

11 (1) a proposal, in coordination with the Agency of Commerce and
12 Community Development, for incentives and mechanisms to promote the
13 growth of businesses engaged in the ethical development and use of artificial
14 intelligence systems in Vermont, including ways to provide increased access to
15 accelerated computing, create co-working spaces, and create grant programs to
16 fund artificial intelligence initiatives; and

17 (2) a proposal, in coordination with the Agency of Education, for
18 creating programs to increase awareness of artificial intelligence systems
19 among students, teachers, and the general public.

1 Sec. 4. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMISSION; POSITION;

2 APPROPRIATION

3 (a) The establishment of the permanent classified position of Technology
4 Director, established in 3 V.S.A. § 5112, is authorized in fiscal year 2021 in
5 the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. This position shall
6 be transferred and converted from existing vacant positions in the Executive
7 Branch and shall not increase the total number of authorized State positions.

8 (b) The sum of \$80,000.00 is appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and
9 Community Development from the General Fund in fiscal year 2021 for the
10 position described in subsection (a) of this section.

11 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.