

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB669

Patron: Maldonado

Bill Title: Professions and occupations; impersonation of certain licensed professionals by chatbot; notice; civil liability.

Bill Summary: Provides that a proprietor that owns, operates, or deploys a chatbot, defined in the bill, shall not permit such chatbot to provide any substantive response, information, or advice, or take any action that, if taken by a natural person, would (i) constitute the unlawful practice of architecture, engineering, surveying, landscape architecture, geology, dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, certain mental health professions, psychology, social work, or veterinary medicine; (ii) violate the provisions of law making it unlawful for any person to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic, or podiatry or as a physician assistant in the Commonwealth without a valid unrevoked license or to practice law without being authorized or licensed; or (iii) violate the provisions of law making it unlawful for a teacher to be employed without a license or provisional license or relating to division superintendents, members of a school board or other school officers, or principals or teachers in a public school. The bill allows a person injured by a proprietor who engages in any such conduct to sue therefor no more than two years after the cause of action accrues and recover compensatory damages and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

The bill also requires a proprietor operating or deploying a chatbot to provide a clear, conspicuous, and explicit notice to users that they are interacting with a chatbot but specifies that the provisions of such notice shall not be a defense to liability.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: This bill involves the Courts, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), and Department of Health Professions (DHP); however, no budget action is required.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact resulting from this bill can be absorbed within existing appropriation.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill prohibits a proprietor, as defined in the bill, from allowing a chatbot to provide advice or information that, if provided by a human, would require licensure from any of several professional regulation boards. The bill does not require action by DPOR or DHP, but the Boards may choose to communicate the change to their regulant members. It is anticipated that they can do so through their regular course of business with existing resources.

The bill creates a private cause of action for any individual harmed by a violation of the bill. It is anticipated that the courts can absorb any increase in caseload resulting from this bill within existing appropriation.

Other: None.