

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Government Act of 2019

Section-by-Section

The *AI in Government Act* seeks to prioritize cohesion and competency for the federal government's use of AI by increasing its expertise concerning emerging technologies and developing and advancing public-sector AI. Specifically, this bill would empower the General Services Administration (GSA) to advise the federal government in its use of AI; directs federal agencies to generate Governance Plans for AI Systems; and directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to identify skills and competencies for AI and establish a new or update an existing occupational job series.

Section 1 and 2. Short Title; Definitions

“AI in Government Act of 2019.”

Section 3. AI Center of Excellence

- Establishes an AI Center of Excellence (AI CoE) at GSA.
- Directs GSA to provide the AI CoE with necessary staff (temporary or term hires and fellows from academia, nonprofits, think tanks, and industry), resources, and administrative support to:
 - regularly convene government, industry, nonprofit, academic, and other experts to discuss recent developments in AI and initiatives at Federal agencies to adopt these technologies;
 - advise on federal government acquisition and use of AI;
 - assist agencies in applying the management and use of data for AI;
 - provide information on educational and workforce development opportunities related to AI;
 - study economic, policy, legal, and ethical challenges and implications of federal government use of AI including how privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights of individuals are or will be affected;
 - encourage joint initiatives with state or local governments, regional organizations, private businesses, academia, nonprofit organizations, and federal laboratories; and
 - assist agencies in developing and maintaining plans for the governance of AI systems.
- Encourages GSA to detail AI CoE staff to other Federal agencies to advise on the use of AI.
- Requires an annual report to Congress with a summary of activities and recommendations.

Section 4. Agency Governance Plans for AI Systems

- Requires OMB to issue a memorandum to heads of Executive branch agencies that will:
 - inform the development of AI governance approaches;
 - advance innovative uses and reduce barriers to AI for the benefit of the public while upholding civil liberties, privacy, and civil rights;
 - establish best practices for identifying, assessing, and mitigating bias or negative unintended consequence of the use of artificial intelligence; and
 - provide a template of the required contents of the agency Governance Plans.

- Requires agencies to review applications of AI at the agency, identify high-priority applications of AI, and submit Governance plans to OMB and GSA.
- Requires the agency Governance Plans be published publically, updated annually, and the process solicits feedback via public hearings and online submissions.

Section 5. Advisory Board

- In order to advise the activities of the AI CoE, establishes an advisory board made up of designees from: A) OMB (Chair), Office of Science and Technology Policy, Department of Commerce; B) six agencies to be determined by the Chair every six months; and C) industry (4), academia (2), and public-interest groups (2).
- Requires the publishing of a list of areas in which the federal government could improve technical or policy expertise within the AI CoE's focus areas.

Section 6. Establishment of Occupational Series for Artificial Intelligence

- Directs OPM to identify skills and competencies for AI and establish a new or update an existing occupational job series.

Section 7. Sunset

- Terminates the AI CoE and advisory board after five years of this legislation's enactment.