



State of California

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July 15, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 594 (Salas) - As Amended 5/16/2019

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 594 (Salas), which requires the Director of Technology to appoint a Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer within the Department of Technology to evaluate the uses of artificial intelligence in state government. Additionally, this bill requires the Chief AI Officer to advise the California Workforce Development Board in order to prepare and retrain workers whose jobs may be altered or displaced due to AI.

In its 2018 report, *Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for California*, the Commission noted strides made by California state government to improve internal and external operations and services through AI technology. The Commission concluded, however, that California state government as a whole was ill-prepared for the inevitable changes brought by AI. Among its recommendations, the Commission called for the creation of strategic plans for the use of artificial intelligence technology to improve state services and minimize the impact of AI technology on jobs and job classifications.

AB 594 would advance the goals of the Commission's recommendations and help the Department of Technology focus on the strategic development and use of AI technology for the benefit of Californians. For these reasons the Little Hoover Commission supports AB 594 and encourages an AYE vote. If I or my staff can provide any further assistance as the bill moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

C: Members, Senate Committee on Senate Committee on Appropriations; Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission