



Fact Sheet: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence

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Artificial intelligence has the power to transform our society. From helping detect early-stage wildfires to improving student learning, promoting water conservation, and more, this technology could transform California's ability to tackle some of its most pressing challenges.

Yet California has not kept pace on organizing efforts to address the implications of AI. Other states, cities, and countries are surging forward with strategic plans to harness the power of AI in ways that will improve their economy, public health and safety, jobs, and environment. The race to develop and use AI for good is fast paced and highly competitive, and one that California should be leading, but is not.

In its 2018 report, [Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for California](#), the Little Hoover Commission provides the Governor and Legislature with an AI policymaking agenda that revolves around public engagement, building a human infrastructure, attacking pressing social needs, and protecting core values – autonomy, responsibility, privacy, transparency, and accountability. We recommend California:

- Appoint an AI special advisor within the Governor's cabinet to coordinate with AI counterparts across state and local agencies, create a strategic plan that incorporates AI within state government, and oversee the safe and transparent deployment of AI.
- Create an AI Commission made up of knowledgeable professionals and experts in the field of AI from private industry, governments, nonprofits, unions, and academia to provide leadership on addressing the various policy challenges and opportunities of AI implementation in the state.

- Require each state agency to devise strategic plans that include the use and implementation of AI technology to improve and enhance operations and services within an ethical framework that promotes the use of AI for economic, social, and environmental good.
- Improve the data collection related to jobs at-risk from new technologies by requiring the Employment Development Department to collect and evaluate data that identifies how the impact of AI will differ by region, employment sector, socio-economic group, and more.

The opportunity to prepare for the AI world is now; otherwise, California may find itself left behind. California has the opportunity to not only begin addressing the implications of AI, but also to become the world leader in adopting thoughtful policies to ensure AI positively impacts the state's economy, and more importantly, all Californians.

SUPPORTED LEGISLATION

- [AB 594 \(Salas\), 2019](#): Would have created a Chief AI Officer to evaluate the use of AI in state government and a commission to develop a policy framework to manage its use.
- [AB 976 \(Chau\), 2019](#): Would have created a state commission to gather input on how AI and data science could be used to improve state services.
- [SB 348 \(Chang\), 2019](#): Would have required the state to develop a strategic plan to use AI technology to improve state services.

OTHER IMPLEMENTATION

- In Fall 2020, the state launched the [Artificial Intelligence Community of Practice](#) to foster awareness on AI and AI related projects throughout the state.

Last updated: January 2023