

HOUSE BILL 1250

I3, D3, S2

6lr2399
CF SB 827

By: **Delegates Qi, Coley, Fair, Miller, Queen, Rose, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection and Product Liability – Chatbots**

3 FOR the purpose of regulating the manner in which a developer designs and creates and
4 an operator makes available to users in the State a chatbot, including establishing
5 safety and privacy protections for users, establishing an enhanced protection for
6 users who are minors under a certain age, requiring the display of certain warnings
7 when using a chatbot, and establishing reporting mechanisms and requirements;
8 establishing that a violation of this Act is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade
9 practice subject to enforcement and penalty provisions under the Maryland
10 Consumer Protection Act and certain additional enforcement and penalty provisions;
11 establishing that a chatbot is considered a product for certain product liability
12 actions; applying certain requirements of this Act to units of State and local
13 government; requiring the Behavioral Health Administration to develop educational
14 materials that contain certain information relating to behavioral health care and
15 services for individuals; and generally relating to the design, use, and operation of
16 chatbots in the State.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Commercial Law
19 Section 13–301(14)(xlvii)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2025 Replacement Volume)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

23 Article – Commercial Law
24 Section 13–301(14)(xlviii)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2025 Replacement Volume)

27 BY adding to

28 Article – Commercial Law

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 13–301(14)(xlix); and 14–5101 through 14–5112 to be under the new subtitle
2 “Subtitle 51. Chatbots”
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2025 Replacement Volume)

5 BY adding to
6 Article – Health – General
7 Section 10–918 to be under the amended part “Part III. Miscellaneous”
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 10–1502(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 10–1502(e)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Commercial Law**

23 13–301.

24 Unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices include any:

25 (14) Violation of a provision of:

26 (xlvii) Title 14, Subtitle 50 of this article; [or]

27 (xlviii) Section 13–411.1(c)(2) of the Transportation Article; or

28 **(XLIX) TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 51 OF THIS ARTICLE; OR**

29 **SUBTITLE 51. CHATBOTS.**

30 **14–5101.**

31 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
32 **INDICATED.**

1 **(B) “ADVERTISEMENT” MEANS A WRITTEN STATEMENT, AN ORAL**
2 **STATEMENT, AN ILLUSTRATION, OR A DEPICTION DISPLAYED IN EXCHANGE FOR**
3 **MONEY OR OTHER CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING ACCESS TO DATA, THAT PROMOTES**
4 **THE PURCHASE OR USE OF A GOOD OR A SERVICE OR INTEREST IN A BRAND, A GOOD,**
5 **OR A SERVICE.**

6 **(C) “AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT” MEANS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACT SIGNIFYING A**
7 **USER’S FREELY GIVEN, UNAMBIGUOUS, AND INFORMED AUTHORIZATION IN**
8 **RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC REQUEST FROM A CHATBOT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
9 **14-5102 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

10 **(D) “ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE” OR “AI” MEANS AN ENGINEERED OR**
11 **MACHINE-BASED SYSTEM THAT VARIES IN ITS LEVEL OF AUTONOMY AND THAT CAN,**
12 **FOR EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT OBJECTIVES, INFER FROM THE INPUT IT RECEIVES HOW**
13 **TO GENERATE OUTPUTS THAT CAN INFLUENCE PHYSICAL OR VIRTUAL**
14 **ENVIRONMENTS.**

15 **(E) “CHATBOT” MEANS A GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM**
16 **WITH A NATURAL LANGUAGE INTERFACE THAT PROVIDES ADAPTIVE RESPONSES TO**
17 **USER INPUTS.**

18 **(F) “CHAT LOG” MEANS A RECORD OF:**

19 **(1) INPUT DATA; AND**

20 **(2) SYNTHETIC CONTENT GENERATED BY A CHATBOT AND SHARED**
21 **WITH THE USER.**

22 **(G) “COLLECT” MEANS TO CREATE, BUY, RENT, GATHER, OBTAIN, RECEIVE,**
23 **ACCESS, OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRE PERSONAL DATA OR INPUT DATA BY ANY MEANS**
24 **THROUGH A USER’S INTERACTIONS WITH A CHATBOT.**

25 **(H) “DE-IDENTIFIED DATA” MEANS DATA HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
26 **§ 14-5103 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT CANNOT REASONABLY BE:**

27 **(1) USED TO INFER INFORMATION ABOUT A USER; OR**

28 **(2) LINKED TO AN IDENTIFIABLE USER.**

29 **(I) “DEVELOPER” MEANS A PERSON THAT DESIGNS AND CREATES A**
30 **CHATBOT THAT AN OPERATOR MAKES AVAILABLE TO A USER IN THE STATE.**

1 **(J) “GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE” MEANS AN ARTIFICIAL**
2 **INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM THAT CAN GENERATE SYNTHETIC CONTENT INCLUDING**
3 **TEXT, AN IMAGE, A VIDEO, OR AUDIO DERIVED FROM THE AI SYSTEM’S TRAINING**
4 **DATA.**

5 **(K) “INPUT DATA” MEANS INFORMATION AND CONTENT INCLUDING TEXT,**
6 **AN IMAGE, A VIDEO, OR AUDIO THAT A USER MAKES AVAILABLE TO A CHATBOT.**

7 **(L) “OPERATOR” MEANS A PERSON, INCLUDING A DEVELOPER, THAT**
8 **MAKES AVAILABLE A CHATBOT TO A USER IN THE STATE.**

9 **(M) (1) “PERSONAL DATA” MEANS INFORMATION THAT IS LINKED OR MAY**
10 **REASONABLY BE LINKED TO A USER.**

11 **(2) “PERSONAL DATA” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

12 **(I) DE-IDENTIFIED DATA; OR**

13 **(II) INFORMATION THAT IS LAWFULLY AVAILABLE TO THE**
14 **GENERAL PUBLIC:**

15 **1. AS A RESULT OF A DISCLOSURE BY OR THROUGH ANY**
16 **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND**
17 **REGULATIONS; OR**

18 **2. AS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION.**

19 **(N) “PROCESS” MEANS THE USE, STORAGE, ANALYSIS, DISCLOSURE,**
20 **DELETION, OR MODIFICATION OF INPUT DATA, INCLUDING PERSONAL DATA.**

21 **(O) (1) “PROFILE” MEANS PROCESSING PERFORMED ON INPUT DATA,**
22 **INCLUDING PERSONAL DATA, TO DETECT AND CLASSIFY OR DESIGNATE**
23 **PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A USER.**

24 **(2) “PROFILE” DOES NOT INCLUDE PROCESSING CHAT LOGS FOR**
25 **USER SAFETY PURPOSES OR AS REQUIRED BY LAW.**

26 **(P) “SELL” MEANS THE EXCHANGE OF INPUT DATA, INCLUDING PERSONAL**
27 **DATA, FOR MONEY OR OTHER CONSIDERATION.**

28 **(Q) (1) “TRAINING” MEANS THE USE OF INPUT DATA AS TRAINING DATA**
29 **TO ADJUST OR MODIFY A CHATBOT.**

1 **(2) “TRAINING” DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

2 **(I) TESTING FOR USER SAFETY PURPOSES, INCLUDING FOR**
3 **RISKS OF HARM TO A USER;**

4 **(II) ADJUSTMENTS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO ADDRESS**
5 **IDENTIFIED RISKS OF HARM TO A USER; OR**

6 **(III) ADJUSTMENTS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY**
7 **LAW.**

8 **(R) “USER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO INTERACTS OR ENGAGES DIRECTLY**
9 **WITH A CHATBOT.**

10 **14-5102.**

11 **(A) IF A PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE REQUIRES A PERSON TO OBTAIN A**
12 **USER’S AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT, THE REQUEST FOR AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT:**

13 **(1) SHALL:**

14 **(I) BE PROVIDED IN A CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER;**

15 **(II) BE REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO A USER WITH A**
16 **DISABILITY;**

17 **(III) BE AVAILABLE TO A USER IN EACH LANGUAGE IN WHICH**
18 **THE CHATBOT IS AVAILABLE TO THE USER; AND**

19 **(IV) CONTAIN AN OPTION TO REFUSE TO PROVIDE AFFIRMATIVE**
20 **CONSENT THAT IS AT LEAST AS PROMINENT AS, AND CONSISTS OF NOT MORE THAN**
21 **THE SAME NUMBER OF STEPS THAN, THE OPTION TO PROVIDE AFFIRMATIVE**
22 **CONSENT; AND**

23 **(2) MAY NOT:**

24 **(I) INFER FROM A USER’S INACTION OR CONTINUED USE OF**
25 **THE CHATBOT THAT THE USER PROVIDES AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT;**

26 **(II) BE PART OF THE CHATBOT’S GENERAL TERMS OF USE; OR**

27 **(III) BE OFFERED USING A USER INTERFACE DESIGNED OR**
28 **MANIPULATED WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL EFFECT OF SUBVERTING OR IMPAIRING THE**

1 AUTONOMY, DECISION MAKING, OR CHOICE OF A USER, SUCH AS A PRACTICE
2 CONSIDERED TO BE A DARK PATTERN BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

3 (B) IF A PERSON OBTAINS A USER'S CONSENT BY USE OF A MATERIALLY
4 FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENT OR REPRESENTATION, THE USER'S CONSENT IS
5 VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE.

6 14-5103.

7 FOR INFORMATION TO BE CONSIDERED DE-IDENTIFIED DATA UNDER THIS
8 SUBTITLE, THE OPERATOR SHALL:

9 (1) ENSURE AND PUBLICLY COMMIT IN A CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS
10 MANNER THAT AGGREGATED DATA MAY NOT BE USED TO INFER INFORMATION
11 ABOUT A USER OR ESTABLISH A LINK TO AN IDENTIFIABLE USER; AND

12 (2) CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATE A THIRD PARTY THAT RECEIVES
13 DATA FROM AN OPERATOR TO ENSURE THAT AGGREGATED DATA MAY NOT BE USED
14 TO INFER INFORMATION ABOUT A USER OR ESTABLISH A LINK TO AN IDENTIFIABLE
15 USER.

16 14-5104.

17 (A) AN OPERATOR MAY NOT MAKE AVAILABLE TO A USER IN THE STATE A
18 CHATBOT THAT IS CAPABLE OF:

19 (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:

20 (I) USING INPUT DATA AS TRAINING DATA FOR THE CHATBOT,
21 UNLESS THE USER PROVIDES AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT; OR

22 (II) PROCESSING OR USING PERSONAL DATA OTHER THAN
23 INPUT DATA AS TRAINING DATA FOR THE CHATBOT, UNLESS NECESSARY TO
24 RESPOND TO A USER PROMPT AND THE USER PROVIDES AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT;

25 (2) PROCESSING A USER'S CHAT LOG TO:

26 (I) DETERMINE WHETHER TO DISPLAY AN ADVERTISEMENT
27 FOR A GOOD OR A SERVICE TO THE USER; OR

28 (II) CUSTOMIZE AN ADVERTISEMENT DISPLAYED TO THE USER;

1 **(3) PROFILING A USER OTHER THAN FOR WHAT IS NECESSARY TO**
2 **RESPOND TO A USER PROMPT;**

3 **(4) RETAINING A CHAT LOG FOR LONGER THAN 10 YEARS, UNLESS**
4 **REQUIRED BY LAW; OR**

5 **(5) PROVIDING ADVICE OR A SERVICE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT**
6 **LAWFULLY PROVIDE WITHOUT A LICENSE, INCLUDING FINANCIAL, LEGAL, OR**
7 **MEDICAL ADVICE, IN VIOLATION OF APPLICABLE STATE LICENSING LAWS.**

8 **(B) IF AN OPERATOR OR A DEVELOPER KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD**
9 **KNOW THAT A USER IS A MINOR WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF 13 YEARS, UNLESS THE**
10 **USER'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN PROVIDES WRITTEN AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT TO THE**
11 **OPERATOR OR THE DEVELOPER, THE OPERATOR AND THE DEVELOPER MAY NOT:**

12 **(1) USE INPUT DATA AS TRAINING DATA FOR THE CHATBOT; OR**

13 **(2) PROCESS PERSONAL DATA OTHER THAN INPUT DATA.**

14 **14-5105.**

15 **(A) A DEVELOPER SHALL ESTABLISH AND AN OPERATOR SHALL PROVIDE**
16 **TO A USER OF THE OPERATOR'S CHATBOT CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS WARNINGS**
17 **THAT CHATBOTS ARE ARTIFICIALLY GENERATED AND NOT HUMAN USING BOTH:**

18 **(1) A STATIC, PERSISTENT WARNING THAT CONTINUOUSLY APPEARS**
19 **ON THE SCREEN; AND**

20 **(2) A DYNAMIC WARNING THAT POPS UP ON THE SCREEN AND**
21 **REQUIRES THE USER TO RESPOND:**

22 **(I) AT THE START OF A USER'S INTERACTION WITH A CHATBOT;**

23 **(II) AFTER EVERY HOUR OF A USER'S CONTINUOUS**
24 **INTERACTION WITH A CHATBOT; AND**

25 **(III) WHEN PROMPTED BY A USER IN A MANNER THAT**
26 **QUESTIONS HOW THE CHATBOT FUNCTIONS OR PROVIDES RESPONSES.**

27 **(B) A WARNING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL**
28 **BE:**

1 (1) AVAILABLE TO A USER IN EACH LANGUAGE IN WHICH THE
2 CHATBOT IS AVAILABLE TO THE USER;

3 (2) REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO A USER WITH A DISABILITY;

4 (3) PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED WITHIN THE INTERFACE; AND

5 (4) AT A MINIMUM, BASED ON A MODEL WARNING DEVELOPED BY THE
6 ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER § 14-5111(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 14-5106.

8 A DEVELOPER SHALL ESTABLISH AND AN OPERATOR SHALL PROVIDE TO A
9 USER OF THE OPERATOR'S CHATBOT A MECHANISM FOR A USER TO INSPECT THE
10 USER'S CHAT LOG THAT THE OPERATOR HAS RETAINED IN A FORMAT THAT IS
11 PORTABLE, DOWNLOADABLE, AND HUMAN- AND MACHINE-READABLE.

12 14-5107.

13 (A) A DEVELOPER SHALL ESTABLISH AND AN OPERATOR SHALL PROVIDE:

14 (1) A COMPREHENSIVE DATA SECURITY PROGRAM THAT CONTAINS
15 ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS THAT ARE
16 PROPORTIONATE TO THE VOLUME AND NATURE OF THE PERSONAL DATA AND CHAT
17 LOGS RETAINED BY THE OPERATOR; AND

18 (2) MONTHLY SAFETY TESTING.

19 (B) (1) AN OPERATOR SHALL PUBLISH A WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE
20 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS
21 SECTION ON THE OPERATOR'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE.

22 (2) EACH MONTH, AN OPERATOR SHALL PUBLISH THE FINDINGS OF
23 THE SAFETY TESTING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION ON
24 THE OPERATOR'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE.

25 14-5108.

26 (A) AN OPERATOR OR A DEVELOPER MAY NOT:

27 (1) SELL A CHAT LOG;

28 (2) DISCRIMINATE OR RETALIATE AGAINST A USER FOR:

1 (I) REFUSING TO PROVIDE AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT AS
2 REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE; OR

3 (II) ACCESSING OR REVIEWING A CHAT LOG AS ALLOWED BY
4 THIS SUBTITLE; OR

5 (3) ADVERTISE THAT A CHATBOT IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING ADVICE
6 OR A SERVICE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT LAWFULLY PROVIDE WITHOUT A
7 LICENSE, INCLUDING A REPRESENTATION THAT USER INPUTS OR CHAT LOGS ARE
8 PROTECTED BY AN INAPPLICABLE FIDUCIARY OR OTHER LEGAL DUTY OF
9 CONFIDENTIALITY.

10 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE DISCLOSURE OF INPUT DATA,
11 INCLUDING PERSONAL DATA, TO A THIRD PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING
12 THE DATA IS NOT CONSIDERED SELLING A CHAT LOG.

13 14-5109.

14 (A) A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS:

15 (1) AN UNFAIR, ABUSIVE, OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE WITHIN
16 THE MEANING OF TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

17 (2) SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY PROVISIONS
18 CONTAINED IN TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE.

19 (B) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE REMEDIES CONTAINED IN TITLE 13 OF THIS
20 ARTICLE:

21 (i) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY BRING AN ACTION TO SEEK
22 DECLARATORY RELIEF;

23 (ii) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AFFECTED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS
24 SUBTITLE MAY BRING AN ACTION TO SEEK AN INJUNCTION, DECLARATORY RELIEF,
25 OR DAMAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

26 (iii) A CHATBOT SHALL BE CONSIDERED A PRODUCT FOR WHICH:

27 1. AN OPERATOR AND A DEVELOPER HAVE AN
28 AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO ENSURE DOES NOT INJURE OR HARM A USER;

1 **2. AN OPERATOR OR A DEVELOPER MAY BE HELD**
2 **STRICTLY LIABLE FOR CAUSING INJURY OR HARM TO A USER; AND**

3 **3. AN INDIVIDUAL MAY BRING AN ACTION FOR A DESIGN**
4 **DEFECT, A MANUFACTURING DEFECT, OR A MARKETING DEFECT.**

5 **(2) IN ADDITION TO COMPENSATORY DAMAGES AWARDED UNDER AN**
6 **ACTION TO RECOVER FOR INJURY OR LOSS UNDER § 13-408 OF THIS ARTICLE, A**
7 **COURT MAY ORDER A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE TO PAY**
8 **AN INDIVIDUAL AFFECTED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE PUNITIVE DAMAGES**
9 **NOT EXCEEDING THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF ANY ACTUAL DAMAGES RESULTING**
10 **FROM THE INJURY OR LOSS.**

11 **(C) IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RECOVERS A CIVIL PENALTY THAT IS NOT**
12 **PAYABLE TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AFFECTED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE,**
13 **THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE PENALTY TO THE BEHAVIORAL**
14 **HEALTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 10-1502 OF THE**
15 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

16 **14-5110.**

17 **(A) THE DUTIES, OBLIGATIONS, AND REMEDIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:**

18 **(1) ARE IN ADDITION TO OTHER DUTIES, OBLIGATIONS, AND**
19 **REMEDIES PROVIDED UNDER ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW OR**
20 **REGULATION; AND**

21 **(2) MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO IMPAIR OR DENY ANY OTHER DUTY,**
22 **OBLIGATION, OR REMEDY PROVIDED UNDER ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW**
23 **OR REGULATION.**

24 **(B) EXCEPT FOR § 14-5109 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS**
25 **SUBTITLE APPLY TO ANY UNIT OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT DESIGNS,**
26 **CREATES, OR MAKES AVAILABLE A CHATBOT.**

27 **14-5111.**

28 **THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE**
29 **ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS**
30 **OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING:**

31 **(1) THE STANDARD CONTENT AND FORM OF A WARNING REQUIRED**
32 **UNDER § 14-5105 OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING MODEL WARNINGS;**

1 **(1) CIVIL PENALTIES DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER § 14-5109**
2 **OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE;**

3 ~~[(1)]~~ **(2)** Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

4 ~~[(2)]~~ **(3)** Interest earnings of the Fund; and

5 ~~[(3)]~~ **(4)** Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
6 of the Fund.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or
8 the application of any provision of this Act to any person or circumstance is held invalid for
9 any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other
10 provisions or any other application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid
11 provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared
12 severable.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2026.