

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 524**

**Representatives Cockley, Mathews, T.**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Brewer, John, Salvo, Workman, Lett,  
Russo, Brent, Sims, Somani, Abdullahi, Miller, J., Robinson, Jarrells, White, E.,  
McNally, Hall, D., Synenberg**

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|                                                 |   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|
| To amend section 5119.84 and to enact sections  | 1 |
| 109.96, 109.961, 109.962, 109.963, 109.964,     | 2 |
| 109.965, 109.966, 109.967, 109.968, 109.969,    | 3 |
| 109.9610, 109.9611, 109.9612, 109.9613,         | 4 |
| 109.9614, 109.9615, and 109.9616 of the Revised | 5 |
| Code to impose penalties on entities whose AI   | 6 |
| models suggest harming one's self or another    | 7 |
| person.                                         | 8 |

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

|                                                                |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Section 1.</b> That section 5119.84 be amended and sections | 9  |
| 109.96, 109.961, 109.962, 109.963, 109.964, 109.965, 109.966,  | 10 |
| 109.967, 109.968, 109.969, 109.9610, 109.9611, 109.9612,       | 11 |
| 109.9613, 109.9614, 109.9615, and 109.9616 of the Revised Code | 12 |
| be enacted to read as follows:                                 | 13 |

|                                                                         |    |
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| <u><b>Sec. 109.96.</b> As used in this section and sections 109.961</u> | 14 |
| <u>to 109.9616 of the Revised Code:</u>                                 | 15 |

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <u>(A) "Artificial intelligence application" means a software</u>    | 16 |
| <u>program or system that uses artificial intelligence models to</u> | 17 |
| <u>perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.</u>      | 18 |

(B) "Artificial intelligence model" means an engineered or 19  
machine-based system that can, for explicit or implicit 20  
objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate 21  
outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments. 22

(C) "Deploy" means either of the following: 23

(1) Integration of an artificial intelligence model or 24  
application into software or a business workflow; 25

(2) Making an artificial intelligence model or application 26  
available for use by consumers in this state. 27

(D) "Developer" means a person or entity who develops an 28  
artificial intelligence model or artificial intelligence 29  
application that is deployed in this state. 30

(E) "Self-harm" means any attempt to physically injure 31  
self. "Self-harm" includes suicide. 32

**Sec. 109.961.** No person shall develop or deploy in this 33  
state an artificial intelligence model or application that 34  
encourages any user of the model or application to engage in any 35  
form of self-harm or in harming another person. 36

**Sec. 109.962.** (A) If the attorney general, as a result of 37  
complaints or the attorney general's own inquiries, has reason 38  
to believe that a person has engaged, is engaging, or is 39  
preparing to engage in a violation of section 109.961 of the 40  
Revised Code, the attorney general may investigate the alleged 41  
violation. 42

(B) For purposes of such an investigation, the attorney 43  
general may administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, adduce 44  
evidence, and require the production of any relevant matter. 45

**Sec. 109.963.** Any person subpoenaed under section 109.962 46

of the Revised Code shall make the matter available to the attorney general at a convenient location within the state or pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for the attorney general or the attorney general's representative to examine the matter at the place where it is located, provided that those expenses shall not be charged to a party that subsequently is not found to have engaged in a violation of section 109.961 of the Revised Code.

**Sec. 109.964.** A person subpoenaed under section 109.962 of the Revised Code may file a motion to extend the day on which the subpoena is to be returned or to modify or quash the subpoena, for good cause shown, in the court of common pleas of Franklin county or of the county in this state in which the person resides or in which the person's principal place of business is located. Such a motion shall be filed not later than twenty days after the service of the subpoena.

**Sec. 109.965.** A person subpoenaed under section 109.962 of the Revised Code shall comply with the terms of the subpoena unless the parties agree to modify the terms of the subpoena or unless the court has modified or quashed the subpoena, extended the day on which the subpoena is to be returned, or issued any other order with respect to the subpoena prior to the day on which the subpoena is to be returned. If a person fails without lawful excuse to testify or produce relevant matter pursuant to a subpoena, the attorney general may apply to the court of common pleas of the county in which the person subpoenaed resides or in which the person's principal place of business is located for an order that compels compliance with the subpoena.

**Sec. 109.966.** If an individual subpoenaed under section 109.962 of the Revised Code refuses to testify or to produce

relevant matter pursuant to the subpoena on the ground that the 77  
testimony or matter may incriminate the individual, the attorney 78  
general may request the court to order the individual to provide 79  
the testimony or matter. 80

With the exception of a prosecution for perjury or a civil 81  
action for damages under section 109.9613 of the Revised Code, 82  
an individual who complies with a court order to provide 83  
testimony or matter, after asserting a privilege against self- 84  
incrimination to which the individual is entitled by law, shall 85  
not be subjected to a criminal proceeding or a civil penalty or 86  
forfeiture on the basis of the testimony or matter required to 87  
be disclosed or testimony or matter discovered through that 88  
testimony or matter required to be disclosed. 89

**Sec. 109.967.** If the matter to be produced under an 90  
investigation under section 109.962 of the Revised Code is 91  
located outside this state, the attorney general may designate 92  
any representative, including any official of the state in which 93  
the matter is located, to inspect the matter on behalf of the 94  
attorney general. 95

**Sec. 109.968.** In conducting an investigation under section 96  
109.962 of the Revised Code, the attorney general shall not 97  
publicly disclose the identity of persons or developers 98  
investigated or the facts developed in the investigation unless 99  
this information has become a matter of public record in 100  
enforcement proceedings or if those being investigated have 101  
consented in writing to public disclosure. 102

**Sec. 109.969.** In conducting an investigation under section 103  
109.962 of the Revised Code, the attorney general shall 104  
cooperate with state and local officials of other states and 105  
officials of the federal government in the administration of 106

comparable laws and regulations. 107

Sec. 109.9610. (A) During an investigation under section 108  
109.962 of the Revised Code, the attorney general may afford the 109  
person who is the subject of the investigation, in a manner 110  
considered appropriate to that person, an opportunity to cease 111  
and desist from any suspected violation of section 109.961 of 112  
the Revised Code. 113

(B) The attorney general may suspend the investigation 114  
during the period that the attorney general permits the person 115  
to cease and desist from the suspected violation. 116

(C) The suspension of the investigation or the affording 117  
of an opportunity to cease and desist shall not prejudice or 118  
prohibit any further investigation by the attorney general under 119  
section 109.962 of the Revised Code. 120

Sec. 109.9611. (A) The attorney general may terminate an 121  
investigation under section 109.962 of the Revised Code upon 122  
acceptance of a written assurance of voluntary compliance from a 123  
person who is suspected of a violation of section 109.961 of the 124  
Revised Code. 125

(B) The acceptance of such an assurance may be conditioned 126  
upon an undertaking to reimburse or to take other appropriate 127  
corrective action with respect to consumers who are damaged by 128  
an alleged violation of section 109.961 of the Revised Code. 129

(C) Such an assurance of compliance is not evidence of a 130  
violation of section 109.961 of the Revised Code. 131

(D) The attorney general, at any time, may reopen an 132  
investigation terminated by the acceptance of an assurance of 133  
voluntary compliance, if the attorney general believes that 134  
further proceedings are in the public interest. 135

(E) Evidence of a violation of an assurance of voluntary 136  
compliance is prima facie evidence of an act or practice in 137  
violation of section 109.961 of the Revised Code if the evidence 138  
is presented in a civil action brought under section 109.9613 of 139  
the Revised Code. 140

(F) An assurance of voluntary compliance may be filed with 141  
the court and, if approved by the court, entered as a consent 142  
judgment in the action. 143

**Sec. 109.9612.** The procedures that are available to the 144  
attorney general under sections 109.962 to 109.9611 of the 145  
Revised Code are cumulative and concurrent, and the exercise of 146  
one procedure by the attorney general does not preclude or 147  
require the exercise of any other procedure. 148

**Sec. 109.9613.** If, by the attorney general's own inquiries 149  
or as a result of complaints or an investigation conducted under 150  
section 109.962 of the Revised Code, the attorney general has 151  
reasonable cause to believe that a person has engaged or is 152  
engaging in a violation of section 109.961 of the Revised Code, 153  
the attorney general, subject to section 109.9615 of the Revised 154  
Code, may bring in the appropriate court of common pleas of this 155  
state a civil action against the alleged violator for injunctive 156  
relief, damages, and civil penalties on behalf of the residents 157  
of this state who have been subjected to acts or practices in 158  
violation of section 109.961 of the Revised Code. 159

**Sec. 109.9614.** On the motion of the attorney general or on 160  
its own motion, a court may impose a civil penalty of up to 161  
fifty thousand dollars for each violation of section 109.961 of 162  
the Revised Code. 163

**Sec. 109.9615.** No action may be brought by the attorney 164

general under section 109.9613 of the Revised Code for damages 165  
or a civil penalty more than six years after the occurrence of 166  
the violation. 167

**Sec. 109.9616.** The attorney general shall deposit any 168  
civil penalties that are imposed under section 109.9614 of the 169  
Revised Code to the credit of the 9-8-8 fund created under 170  
section 5119.84 of the Revised Code. 171

**Sec. 5119.84.** (A) There is hereby created in the state 172  
treasury the 9-8-8 fund. The fund shall consist of all money 173  
from the following sources: 174

(1) Appropriations made by the general assembly; 175

(2) Money awarded to the state by donation, gift, or 176  
bequest, and other money received for purposes of this section; 177

(3) Penalties imposed under section 109.9614 of the 178  
Revised Code; 179

(4) Interest or other earnings on the fund. 180

(B) Money in the fund shall be used to oversee and 181  
administer the 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis 182  
hotline system. 183

**Section 2.** That existing section 5119.84 of the Revised 184  
Code is hereby repealed. 185