Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Regulation Task Force

Report One

To the Legislature as required by Senate Bill 2426, Laws of 2025

Report Date: January 13, 2026

Report Contents

Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Regulation (AIR) Task Force

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January 13, 2026

Dear Members of the Mississippi Legislature and the Public:

Senate Bill 2426, 2025 Regular Session, established the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Regulation (AIR) Task Force to undertake a comprehensive analysis of all matters related to the regulation of artificial intelligence in the state. After taking testimony and collecting considerable information on the subject, we the Co-Chairs of the Task Force, on behalf of the other members of the Task Force, do hereby release to the public the first of three annual reports to be produced, as required by the legislation.

Senator Bart Williams, Co-Chair

Representative Jill Ford, Co-Chair

Introduction: Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Regulation (AIR) Task Force

Senate Bill 2426, *Laws of 2025*

Senate Bill 2426, 2025 Regular Session, created the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Regulation (AIR) Task Force to undertake a comprehensive analysis of all matters related to the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) in the state. The 11-member Task Force is co-chaired by Senator Bart Williams and Representative Jill Ford. Per S.B. 2426, the Task Force is to last three years from the date of passage in 2025 to December 31, 2027.

Refer to Attachment A on page 38 for a copy of S.B. 2426

Co-Chairs

Senator Bart Williams, Co-Chair, Lieutenant Governor appointee; and,

Representative Jill Ford, Co-Chair, Speaker of the House of Representatives appointee.

Other Voting Members

The five remaining voting members of the Task Force include:

- **Dr. Craig Orgeron, Executive Director**, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, or his designee;
- **the Attorney General of Mississippi**, or her designee (Gregory Alston or Doug Miracle);
- **Jim Brinson, Executive Director**, Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, or his designee (Bobby Freeman);[1]
- **Brigadier General Jamie Hankins**, representing the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard; and,
- **Dr. Kollin Napier, Director**, Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network.

Ex-Officio Appointees

Ex-officio members of the task for include:

- **Erin McKinney**, a representative of Amazon Web Services (AWS) designated by the firm;
- **Dani Devito**, representing NVIDIA;
- **Dr. Julie Jordan**, Mississippi State University Senior Advisor for AI and Data Governance; and,
- **Gerard Gibert**, to serve as a representative of a private business entity with experience in AI technology.

[1] Following Baxter Kruger's appointment as U.S. Attorney for Mississippi's Southern District.

Members of the AIR Task Force

Per S.B. 2406, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations annually to the Legislature. Per S.B. 2406, the PEER Committee shall provide necessary clerical support for the meetings of the Task Force and the preparation of the report, with assistance from the clerical and legal staff of the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate.

S.B. 2406 established seven voting members of the AIR Task Force.

Per S.B. 2406, the Task Force shall consist of the following seven voting members:

- the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House shall each appoint one respective member of the Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of Representatives to serve as co-chairs of the Task Force;
- the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, or his or her designee;
- the Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), or his or her designee;
- the Executive Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, or his or her designee;
- the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, or his or her designee; and,
- the Attorney General of Mississippi, or his or her designee.

The chairpersons of the AIR Task Force, with the advice and consent of the remaining official executive agency committee members or their respective designees, may appoint ex-officio nonvoting members to the Task Force to serve in an advisory capacity for such terms to be determined at the discretion of the Task Force.

Additional ex-officio nonvoting members to the Task Force serve in an advisory capacity and may be appointed by the chairpersons.

Purpose of the AIR Task Force

In establishing the AIR Task Force, the Legislature found:

- the State of Mississippi needs to support stakeholders as they gather information and decide the best means to utilize and oversee AI tools and systems used by Mississippi's governing bodies;
- the Legislature acknowledges that AI cannot replace human creativity and involvement and so promotes responsibly using AI tools and systems while aligning and adhering to the state's long-term policies, goals, values and missions

while maintaining citizen trust and balancing the benefits, risks and potential dangers of artificial intelligence; and,

- as the use of AI has implications for state, national, and personal security and privacy, the use of AI must be conducted in a responsible, ethical, transparent and beneficial manner.

Per S.B. 2406, the Task Force shall be responsible for balancing innovation and public interest while endeavoring to mitigate risks and unintended consequences of AI and its regulation. The Task Force shall:

- facilitate and evaluate through comprehensive review, develop tentative drafts of any necessary proposed revisions to the Mississippi Code involving the regulation of AI technologies;
- review laws, policies, and procedures concerning the use of AI technology established by the United States Congress and other state legislatures, if any, and compile a list of recommendations to include in the report required by this act;
- consider implementation and use of AI in state government agencies and compile a list of recommendations of best practices and potential uses for AI technologies in government to include in the report required by this act;
- consider ways to allocate funding for development and use of artificial intelligence technologies in Mississippi and draft proposals accordingly to include in the report required by this act; and,
- any other issues related to artificial intelligence technologies that the Task Force finds appropriate to address.

Methods and Procedures of the Task Force

The AIR Task Force held its first meeting on April 17, 2025, at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson. The AIR Task Force then conducted meetings and tours of facilities at Mississippi State University on September 25, 2025, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Harrison Campus on October 15, 2025. The Task Force then conducted three public hearings at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, on November 6 and December 11, 2025, and January 13, 2026.

Refer to Attachment B on page 48 for a brief summary of each Task Force meeting.

As part of its 2025 work, the Task Force:

- reviewed S.B. 2406;

- reviewed the Governor's Executive Order No. 1584 (Executive Order 1584) on AI;[2]
- reviewed the President's Executive Order on AI issued December 11, 2025 (Executive Order 14365);[3]
- researched similar reports conducted in other states (e.g., Georgia);
- reviewed National Conference of State Legislature (NCSL) summaries of AI laws in other states, including the various definitions for AI;
- considered AI's impact on Mississippi's existing legal framework and the potential to introduce legislation during the 2026 Regular Session;
- considered the potential impact of the U.S. Congress enacting legislation restricting the role in which states can govern AI and once issued on December 11, 2025, the President's Executive Order 14365 intending to preempt state AI regulations (with exceptions);
- heard from panelists about the impact of AI in the areas of healthcare, education, ethics, technology, agriculture, and business and industry; and,
- reviewed news articles and other publications regarding AI.

[2] Issued by Governor Tate Reeves on January 8, 2025.

[3] 90 Federal Register (FR) 58499. Issued December 11, 2025. https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/12/16/2025-23092/ensuring-a-national-policy-framework-for-artificial-intelligence. Filed December 15, 2025.

Background

For an initial report, it is important to set out some important background information for the Legislature. This chapter discusses:

- how AI is defined;
- the President's Executive Order 14365 regarding AI;
- the types and categories of AI in use today; and,
- the growth and evolution of AI.

How AI is Defined

AI is an umbrella term for computer systems that can perform tasks that usually require human thinking—like understanding language, recognizing patterns, making decisions, and solving problems.

The fact that AI is still a developing field can make it difficult to reach a consensus on how to define exactly what AI is and is not. In its section reporting differing state definitions of AI, NCSL states, *the lack of an overarching definition can be challenging to policymakers as they seek to create a regulatory framework*. However, NCSL adds, *that concerns about potential misuse or unintended consequences of AI have prompted state lawmakers to move ahead to address potential harms from these technologies, while still promoting innovation.*[4]

Mississippi S.B. 2426, Section 10 (1), defines "artificial intelligence" to have the same meaning as set forth in 15 USC § 9401(3):

> *A machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action.*

AI refers to machine-based systems that, for a given set of human-defined objectives, can make predictions, recommendations, or decisions that influence real or virtual environments. In practical terms, AI encompasses systems that recognize patterns,

[4] NCSL Website. "State Artificial Intelligence and Related Terms Definition Examples". https://www.ncsl.org/technology-and-communication/state-artificial-intelligence-ai-and-related-terms-definition-examples, as of August 1, 2024.

forecast outcomes, automate workflows, interpret language, generate content, and support human decision-making.

AI is not a single product or model. It is a collection of techniques and capabilities that can be embedded into software systems, hardware, infrastructure, and organizational processes.

Examples of Other State Definitions for AI

The Task Force also searched for other states' definitions of AI. Georgia, per Senate Resolution 476, 2024 Legislative Session, defined AI system to mean:

> *An engineered or machine based system that emulates the capability of a person to receive audio, visual, text, or any other information and use the information received to emulate a human cognitive process, including, but not limited to, learning, generalizing, reasoning, planning, predicting, acting, or communicating; provided, however, that AI systems may vary in the forms of information they can receive and in the human cognitive processes they can emulate.*

California's State Administrative Manual states, AI *encompasses a broad range of applications and processing, from machine learning, deep learning, automated decision making, generative AI, and natural language processing*. California State Administrative Manual Section 4819.2 defines:

- AI as an *engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can influence physical or virtual environments; and,*
- Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) as a type of *AI that can generate derived synthetic content, such as text, images, video, and audio, that emulates the structure and characteristics of the artificial intelligence's training data*.

Washington 2024 Chapter 163 (8) (a) thru (d) defines the following terms, as follows:

- AI means *the use of machine learning and related technologies that use data to train statistical models for the purpose of enabling computer systems to perform tasks normally associated with human intelligence or perception, such as computer vision, speech or natural language processing, and content generation.*
- Generative artificial intelligence means *an artificial intelligence system that generates novel data or content based on a foundation model.*
- Machine learning means *the process by which artificial intelligence is developed using data and algorithms to draw inferences therefrom to automatically adapt or improve its accuracy without explicit programming.*

- **Training data** means *labeled data that is used to teach artificial intelligence models or machine learning algorithms to make proper decisions. Training data may include, but is not limited to, annotated text, images, video, or audio.*

Idaho defines both generative AI and machine learning. Per Idaho Code §18-1507C(6), **generative AI** means *any algorithm or model that creates content such as text, images, audio, or video,* and **machine learning** means *the use of algorithms to enable a computer to learn to perform tasks by analyzing a large dataset without being explicitly programmed.*

President's Executive Order 14365 Regarding AI

Absent a federal AI law preempting state AI laws, the President issued Executive Order 14365 authorizing the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Commerce to review existing state AI laws that are inconsistent with the policies set forth within the executive order. However, Executive Order 14365 did explicitly defer to states regarding child safety protections, AI computer and data center infrastructure, and state government procurement.

On December 11, 2025, President Donald Trump executed Executive Order 14365, *Insuring a National Framework for Artificial Intelligence*. The most significant provisions of the order are summarized below:

- declares a minimally burdensome national policy framework for AI (Section 2);
- creates a Litigation Task Force whose sole responsibility shall be to challenge State AI laws inconsistent with the policy set forth in Section 2 of this order, including on grounds that such laws unconstitutionally regulate interstate commerce, are preempted by existing Federal regulations, or are otherwise unlawful in the Attorney General's judgment (Section 3);
- evaluation of Laws by the Secretary of Commerce who shall publish an evaluation of existing State AI laws that identifies onerous laws that conflict with the policy set forth in Section 2 of this order, as well as laws that should be referred to the Task Force established pursuant to Section 3 of this order. That evaluation of State AI laws shall, at a minimum, identify laws that require AI models to alter their truthful outputs, or that may compel AI developers or deployers to disclose or report information in a manner that would violate the First Amendment or any other provision of the Constitution. The evaluation may additionally identify State laws that promote AI innovation consistent with the policy set forth in Section 2 of this order;
- ineligibility for certain broadband funds if state laws are restrictive of the announced AI policy; and,

- the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission must consider actions such as adopting a reporting and disclosure standard for AI models and clarifying the extent to which state AI laws would be preempted by the Federal Trade Commission Act's prohibition on deceptive practices affecting commerce.

Executive Order 14365 does provide some latitude to states that have adopted legislation in the following areas:

- child safety protections;
- AI computer and data center infrastructure, other than generally applicable permitting reforms;
- state government procurement and use of AI; and,
- other topics as shall be determined.

Impact of Executive Order 14365 on States

Although Executive Order 14365 moves to preempt state AI regulations, Section 8 specifically excludes child safety protections, AI computer and data center infrastructure, and state government procurement and use of AI when considering establishing a uniform Federal policy framework for AI that preempts State AI laws that conflict with the policy set forth in the order.

It remains to be seen whether Congress will pass federal law codifying portions of Executive Order 14365 or other related language governing AI. Given Executive Order 14365 was also issued within the last month, it remains to be seen to what extent the U.S Justice Department or the U.S. Department of Commerce enforce the provisions of Executive Order 14365 or to what extent states challenge all or some provisions of the executive order in court.

Task Force panelists generally advised taking a "wait and see approach," giving the quickly changing AI environment and concerns regarding differing state regulations (e.g., Mississippi versus Tennessee versus Arkansas) stifling innovation and development.

Impact of Executive Order 14365 on Existing Regulation in Mississippi

The Mississippi Office of the Attorney General stated Section 7 of Executive Order 14365 could interact with the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act (MCPA) in relation to AI. The MCPA refers to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Act for guidance. Specifically, MISS. CODE ANN. Section 75-24-3 (c) (1972) provides:

> *It is the intent of the legislature that in construing what constitutes unfair or deceptive trade practices, that the courts will be guided by the interpretations given by the FTC and the federal courts to Section 5(a)(1) of the FTC Act (15 USCS 45(a)(1)) as from time to time amended.*

The Mississippi Office of the Attorney General further added that Executive Order 14365 provides that the Chairman of the FTC shall, in consultation with the Special Advisor for AI and Crypto, issue a policy statement on the application of the FTC Act's prohibition on unfair and deceptive acts or practices.

Types and Categories of AI in Use Today

AI systems currently in use generally fall into several overlapping categories:

- predictive and analytical AI, used to forecast outcomes, detect anomalies, score risk, and optimize operations;
- machine learning systems, which improve performance through exposure to data rather than explicit rule-based programming;
- generative AI, which produces text, images, code, audio, simulations, and synthetic data; and,
- applied or embedded AI, integrated directly into manufacturing systems, logistics platforms, cybersecurity tools, healthcare workflows, agriculture, transportation, and public infrastructure.

Generative AI – not to be confused with Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) (discussed on page 10) – is an advanced form of AI used today but does not rise to the level of AGI. Two primary areas in which Generative AI and AGI differ are in capability and understanding.

- *Capability* – Generative AI excels at replication and is adept at producing content (e.g., images, text, audio, simulations, code) based on learned patterns and datasets within its scope of work but does not venture beyond its programming. In contrast, an AGI agent would have human-level capabilities such as the ability to use tools, take actions on what it has determined, and work across multiple systems.
- *Understanding* – Although Generative AI uses statistical models and algorithms to predict and generate results based on previous data, Generative AI operates without any real comprehension of its output. AGI, by contrast, would have human-like cognitive abilities, capable of learning, reasoning, and applying intelligence to any intellectual task.

Types of AI Based on Capability

AI is classified into three different types depending on the extent to which the system can replicate human-like intelligence and perform tasks: Narrow AI (Weak AI), General AI (AGI), and Superintelligent AI.

Weak AI, or Artificial Narrow Intelligence (ANI), refers to those systems that are designed to perform specific tasks or solve particular problems within a defined scope—they

cannot think or make decisions beyond them. Unlike humans, who can apply intelligence across different situations, Narrow AI operates under set constraints without general cognitive abilities. Examples of Narrow AI include virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa, IBM WatsonX, OpenAI's ChatGPT, recommendation algorithms used by streaming platforms, and facial recognition systems. While these technologies can mimic human-like intelligence in their specific functions, their capabilities are limited to a single area of expertise.

General AI, also known as Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), refers to machines that possess the ability to think, learn, and apply knowledge across different tasks, just like humans. Unlike the previous type, which is limited to specific jobs, General AI would be able to transfer what it learns from one situation to another and adapt to new challenges without needing help from humans. As of March 30, 2025, this type of AI remained a theoretical concept, with ongoing research striving to achieve this level of versatility and autonomy in machines.

Superintelligent AI, or Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI), represents a level of artificial intelligence that surpasses human intelligence. Unlike General AI, which aims to match human intelligence, Superintelligent AI would be capable of thinking, innovating, and reasoning at a level beyond what humans can achieve. As with General AI, Superintelligent AI is hypothetical at this stage, and its development raises significant ethical and existential considerations.

Types of AI Based on Functionality

AI can also be classified based on its functionality—the specific ways it operates and interacts with its environment. The distinctions made are based on how AI processes information, learns from data, and responds to stimuli. The four functional classes include reactive machine AI, limited memory AI, Theory of Mind AI, and Self-Aware AI.

Reactive machine AI refers to the most basic level of artificial intelligence. These systems respond to specific inputs with predetermined outputs without the ability to store data or learn from past experiences. They are designed to react in real time, making them effective for straightforward tasks. Examples of reactive machine AI include IBM Deep Blue,[5] which could analyze countless possible chess moves but lacked memory or learning capabilities. Reactive AI also powers practical applications like Netflix's recommendation engine and traffic management systems that use real-time data to alleviate congestion and improve safety.

Limited memory AI refers to systems that can store and use past data to improve their predictions and performance over time. It is more advanced because it learns from experience and adjusts its responses based on patterns it identifies. While all machine learning models are built using limited memory during their development phase, not all

[5] Known for defeating chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov in the late 1990s by analyzing the pieces on the board and predicting the probable outcomes of each move.

continue to learn once they are deployed. Examples of limited memory AI include self-driving cars, customer service chatbots, smart home devices, and industrial robotics.

Theory of Mind AI, a functional class of AI that falls underneath General AI, represents a future stage of AI that aims to understand and respond to human thoughts and emotions. Current AI systems operate based on commands and data, but Theory of Mind AI would have the ability to interpret emotional cues and adjust its responses accordingly.

Self-Aware AI refers to a hypothetical stage of AI where machines would possess consciousness and self-awareness. If ever achieved, Self-Aware AI would have the ability to understand its own internal conditions and traits along with human emotions and thoughts. It would also have its own set of emotions, needs, and beliefs.

Specialized Types of AI

Robotics represents the physical application of AI. Integrating AI into robots enables machines to perform tasks that typically require human effort, perceive their environment, make decisions, and act autonomously or semi-autonomously. This would include AI chatbots or AI customer service agents.

Expert systems are a version of one of the types of functional AI but designed to specifically target a need. Expert systems replicate the decision-making abilities of human specialists. These systems rely on large databases of information and advanced algorithms to analyze complex data, offer insights, and make recommendations. In healthcare, for example, medical diagnostic tools powered by AI help physicians identify diseases by analyzing patient symptoms and medical histories.

Growth and Evolution of AI

Over the past several years, AI has advanced rapidly in capability, accessibility, and scale. Cloud computing, accelerated hardware, open-source development, and simplified user interfaces have dramatically lowered barriers to entry. Capabilities once restricted to major research institutions are now accessible to state agencies, schools, small businesses, and rural communities.

For Mississippi, this shift means AI should be understood as a general-purpose enabling technology, comparable in significance to electrification, broadband, or advanced manufacturing automation. The central policy question is not whether AI will be used, but whether Mississippi positions itself to build capacity, deploy AI responsibly, and compete for innovation and investment.

AI in Mississippi: What Have We Accomplished

Mississippi has already taken concrete steps to establish a coordinated, statewide AI ecosystem. At the center of this effort is the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), the nation's first statewide AI initiative. This chapter discusses:

- the adoption of AI in state government;
- the establishment of MAIN as the state AI backbone;
- the development of the AI Innovation Hub;
- the state's early AI-related education and workforce development efforts; and,
- early successes and lessons learned.

Adoption of AI in State Government

As of FY 2025, ITS reported Mississippi state agencies had 232 combined active and planned AI solution projects with the Department of Employment Security (9%), the Department of Environmental Quality (8%), and the Arts Commission (8%) accounting for the most AI projects. Microsoft (36%), OpenAI (20%), and Adobe (11%) were the three largest providers of AI services (based on number of projects) in Mississippi.

Executive Order No. 1584 directs the state to take a coordinated approach to the adoption and oversight of AI.[6] A central component of the order was the requirement for a comprehensive statewide AI inventory, establishing a baseline of AI technologies that agencies are planning, piloting, acquiring, developing, or currently using. The order also outlined the principles that should guide the State's broader approach to AI, including fairness, privacy, transparency, security, innovation, and accountability.

ITS Acceptable Use Policy for Artificial Intelligence compliance is mandatory for ITS personnel and contractors and serves as a statewide policy framework guiding the responsible use of artificial intelligence across Mississippi state government. ITS stated, *these principles—focused on responsible use, security, transparency, data protection, and legal compliance—are designed to inform and shape how AI is evaluated, adopted, and governed statewide*. State agencies are encouraged to develop or refine their own AI-related policies and practices using this framework, ensuring consistency with the State's core expectations while allowing flexibility to address agency-specific operational needs.

[6] Issued by Governor Tate Reeves on January 8, 2025.

State Government AI Inventory

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 1584, ITS was directed to coordinate a statewide inventory of artificial intelligence systems and use cases to promote responsible, ethical, transparent, and secure use of AI in state government while balancing innovation with appropriate safeguards. The *2025 Mississippi State Agency AI Inventory Report* fulfills that directive and represents Mississippi's first comprehensive, enterprise-level assessment of AI adoption across state government.

To address concerns about possible bias, discrimination, and disparate impact, NCSL reported states such as Connecticut, Maryland, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington mandated that state agencies also perform impact assessments to ensure that the AI systems in use are ethical, trustworthy, and beneficial.

Top AI Users

ITS reported 63 combined active and planned AI solution projects in FY 2024 compared to 232 combined active and planned AI solution projects in FY 2025. ITS reported approximately 35% of AI utilization among agencies was concentrated among five agencies, including the:

- Department of Employment Security – 9% – 22 projects;
- Department of Environmental Quality – 8% – 19 projects;
- Arts Commission – 8% – 19 projects;
- Department of Transportation – 5% – 13 projects; and,
- Department of Information Technology Services – 5% – 12 projects.

Together, these five agencies represent the most active adopters of AI within state government and demonstrate early leadership in integrating AI into operational and service-delivery functions.

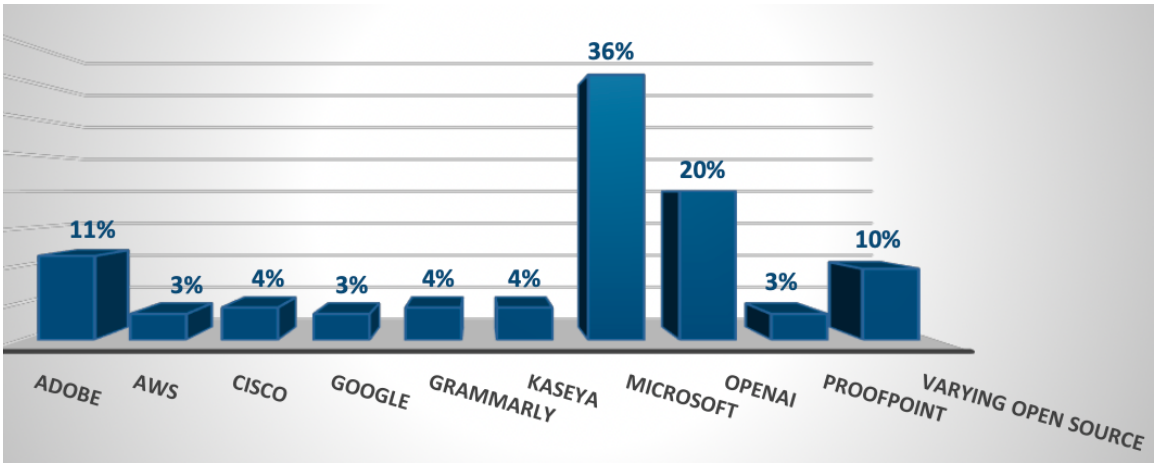
The Legislative Budget Office (LBO) has developed an enterprise-managed AI tool to support bill summarization and analysis. The publicly accessible interface is available at: https://legislature.ms.gov/summary/aisummary. The system provides consistent, repeatable outputs, applies common safeguards, and supports standardized workflows during the legislative session. LBO's AI tool illustrates how a governed AI environment can improve speed, uniformity, and reliability when handling large volumes of statutory text.

AI-Solution Providers

Based on data obtained via the statewide AI inventory, ITS found that Mississippi agencies' AI ecosystem is anchored by a few dominant platforms that make up the majority of projects. Microsoft solutions represent approximately 36% of all adoptions, while OpenAI solutions represent approximately 20%, Adobe accounts for approximately 11% of solutions, and various open-source tools account for roughly 10%. Additional

vendors, including Cisco, Google, Grammarly, Kaseya, AWS, and Proofpoint, comprise smaller but meaningful segments as seen in Exhibit 1 on page 14.

Exhibit 1: Top 10 AI-Related Solution Providers for Mississippi State Agencies



SOURCE: As reported by ITS in the 2025 Mississippi State Agency AI Inventory Report.

ITS concluded that this vendor concentration suggests that statewide AI adoption is closely tied to cloud infrastructure, enterprise productivity, and cybersecurity platforms already in use across agencies. Such concentration provides opportunities for coordinated enterprise agreements, standardized risk assessments, and consistent governance across the most widely deployed technologies.

AI Functionality

Functional categories reveal that agencies use AI for a wide range of capabilities, often combining multiple functions within a single solution. Based on data obtained via the statewide AI inventory, ITS found that Generative AI is the most frequently identified capability, appearing in roughly 147 categorization entries, reflecting strong statewide reliance on large language models for content generation, summarization, and knowledge retrieval. Analytical AI appears approximately 81 times and supports advanced pattern recognition, analytics, and insight generation. Conversational and natural language AI tools, such as chat interfaces and automated assistants, appear in about 58 entries, showing growing interest in chat-based support for employees and citizens. Other categories such as automation AI (42 entries), predictive AI (37 entries), and computer vision (21 entries) highlight targeted uses in workflow automation, forecasting, and document or image analysis. Smaller numbers of cognitive and autonomous/robotic AI uses (around five each) suggest early-stage exploration of more advanced AI capabilities.

Because solutions can span multiple functional types, these counts reflect capability presence rather than total projects. Overall, generative AI dominates current adoption with conversational and analytical capabilities as the next most likely uses.

Establishment of MAIN as the State AI Backbone

The Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network, the nation's first statewide AI initiative, was established in 2023 in response to the rapid rise of AI and its projected impact across multiple workforce sectors. MAIN provides AI leadership for the State of Mississippi through awareness, education, training, and innovation initiatives.

Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network

According to its website, MAIN was created in response to the rapid emergence of AI and its predicted impact on multiple sectors of the workforce. MAIN adopts a comprehensive approach to AI education, workforce training, and awareness initiatives. According to its website, MAIN focuses on three primary goals:

- providing statewide leadership to address AI and workforce development needs for Mississippi's future;
- attracting and fostering innovative AI and advanced technology industries and employers; and,
- meeting the AI education and workforce training needs of Mississippi K-12 schools, community and technical colleges, universities, and businesses.

According to its director, Dr. Kollin Napier, MAIN functions as Mississippi's primary coordination and delivery mechanism for AI education, workforce readiness, and applied adoption. MAIN connects K-12 education, all 15 community colleges, public universities, workforce agencies, and private-sector partners into a unified statewide framework. MAIN's responsibilities include:

- delivering statewide AI education and workforce curriculum, including free, self-paced AI courses available to Mississippians;
- facilitating AI labs and applied learning environments across public institutions;
- aligning credentials, competencies, and applied use cases with workforce and industry demand;
- serving as the connective infrastructure between public investment, education systems, and private partners; and,
- enabling Mississippi's transition from AI awareness to applied AI utilization across sectors.

Dr. Napier states MAIN is intentionally designed as a durable network rather than a single institution or short-term pilot.

Executive Investment and State Support

Mississippi's executive leadership has invested directly in MAIN. In November 2024, the Governor's Office awarded $7.1 million in RESTORE Act funding to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to expand MAIN statewide and establish the first AI Hub on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This investment supports AI, data science, and cloud training and strengthens workforce readiness across regions.

AccelerateMS has made strategic investments in MAIN to bridge education and workforce innovation statewide, supporting faculty training, AI labs, applied programming, and employer alignment across Mississippi's public institutions.

Strategic Industry and National Partnerships

Mississippi has prioritized partnerships over isolation. MAIN's director cited the following examples:

- An MOU with NVIDIA advances AI education, research collaboration, workforce development, and sectoral innovation.
- Collaboration with AWS integrates cloud infrastructure and industry-standard tools into workforce pathways.
- Intel supports statewide AI workforce curriculum and implementation through MAIN.

MAIN utilizes Intel's curriculum to deliver consistent, industry-aligned AI training across public institutions through Canvas, enabling scalable access and standardized outcomes statewide.

MAIN also partnered with OpenAI, hosting a generative AI workshop at Jackson State University through OpenAI Academy, providing hands-on training for educators, workforce participants, and community leaders.

Development of the AI Innovation Hub

Launched on January 10, 2025, the AI Innovation Hub, a partnership between ITS, MAIN, and AWS, provides a statewide structure for agencies and colleges to explore practical AI applications.

ITS announced the launch of the ITS AI Innovation Hub on January 10, 2025. The AI Innovation Hub is a statewide collaboration between ITS, MAIN, and AWS. The Hub aims to accelerate the deployment of AI-driven solutions to enhance public services, boost

economic growth, equip the workforce with cutting-edge AI skills, and create a path to keep our best and brightest students working in Mississippi after college.

The AI Innovation Hub partners with Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi, and University of Mississippi to pair student teams with the Hub to work on solving Mississippi's AI use cases. As of January 9, 2026, ITS reported there were 30 use cases submitted to the AI Innovation Hub. Of those 30 use cases, three projects were active and six additional projects had scopes prepared and were awaiting team pairings. The three active projects address food insecurity challenges (for non-profit Extra Table), Secretary of State policy operations, and ITS's role in overseeing and conducting state IT procurements under its purview. A full-scale launch of the AI Innovation Hub (Hub) is scheduled for late January 2026.

The innovative student teams are interdisciplinary and supervised by institutional staff and faculty to work on rapid proof of concept (PoC) AI solutions with use cases they submit a proposal for. Timelines for PoCs vary by use case but are typically expected to be 6-8 weeks each.

The Hub provides a low-risk, high-value framework for operational modernization, data-driven decision-making, and long-term AI capacity building. Through the Hub, Mississippi students gain direct experience building prototypes for state agencies—strengthening the state's talent pipeline and improving retention of high-skill graduates.

AI-Related Education and Workforce Development

Mississippi AI-related education and workforce development efforts include:

- establishment of the Mississippi AI Talent Accelerator Program (MAI-TAP); and,
- AI-related academic program expansion and talent pipelines at state universities and community colleges.

Establishment of the Mississippi AI Talent Accelerator Program (MAI-TAP)

On Jun 12, 2025, Governor Reeves announced the Mississippi AI Talent Accelerator Program (MAI-TAP), awarding $9.1 million in grants to institutions of higher education to expand AI and machine learning education, applied research, and workforce development aligned with Amazon Web Services (AWS) expansion in Mississippi. 2025 grant recipients included:

- Alcorn State University: $1,150,000 to train individuals in southwest Mississippi on digital literacy and artificial intelligence fundamentals. This funding will also allow for the deployment of telehealth resources through ASU's School of Nursing to improve healthcare access to underserved, rural communities.
- Belhaven University: $390,000 to hire a dedicated AI program chair and integrate AI content into its online MBA curriculum to ensure working professionals have practical, industry-aligned AI skills.

- **Jackson State University**: $1,300,000 to launch an Executive On Roster (XOR) program to engage AI experts and provide real-time industry insights, ensuring that workforce participants have relevant and appropriate skills. JSU student consulting teams will partner with Millsaps College to deliver AI-powered small business support to cultivate tech-driven startups and enhance Mississippi's small business ecosystem.
- **Millsaps College**: $1,000,000 to build upon an existing private investment. Millsaps will establish an endowed chair in AI and Emerging Technology. Through the ELSEWORKS student consulting program and in partnership with JSU, Millsaps will assist small businesses with AI integration.
- **Mississippi College**: $723,000 to leverage existing, private funding. Mississippi College's funding will create a 12-hour certificate and a 6-hour microcredential in their School of Law to ensure Mississippi's future and current lawyers have knowledge needed to thrive in the AI/machine learning enabled world.
- **Mississippi State University**: $2,200,000 to establish an endowment and seek private match for AI/machine learning workforce and research initiatives. This includes two new faculty lines and the development of a graduate certificate in Data Center Construction Management – one of the first of its kind nationally.
- **University of Southern Mississippi**: $1,240,000 to establish a Maritime AI Innovation Lab to accelerate AI adoption in Mississippi's Blue Economy. The Lab will focus on port efficiency, vessel safety, and supply chain optimization. Additionally, USM will launch a master's degree in Robotics and Intelligent Systems. Funding includes support for faculty, graduate researchers, and critical GPU infrastructure. USM will establish an endowment and seek private match to support AI/machine learning research and application of innovations.
- **Tougaloo College**: $1,080,000 to hire new AI/machine learning faculty and establish an endowment to ensure students in all programs have access to appropriate AI/machine learning related concepts.

Each institution must seek private funding and resources to leverage along with state support.

MAI-TAP's role includes stimulating and developing workforce programs that address the AI sector's skill development demands. Mississippi's strategy for AI and machine learning workforce development is organized around five core pillars:

- *AI/machine learning infrastructure by investing in human capital infrastructure*: Building a skilled workforce for foundational infrastructure roles;
- *AI/machine learning literacy for Mississippians*: Promoting basic understanding and competencies across the state's population;
- *education and industry-specific use cases*: Aligning AI education with industry-driven applications;

- *upskilling for product innovation*: Enhancing skills for those creating new tools and technologies; and,
- *research infrastructure*: Supporting the capacity for AI/machine learning innovation and technology advancement.

The newly established AI Workforce Readiness Council – through the State Workforce Investment Board and AccelerateMS – will facilitate this collaboration. MAIN's director Dr. Napier serves as the Chair of the AI Workforce Readiness Council with each grant recipient appointing a designee to participate on the council.

Academic Program Expansion and Talent Pipelines

Mississippi has developed stackable AI education pathways spanning technical, undergraduate, and graduate levels. MAIN's director cited the following examples:

- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's AI and Data Technology Program prepares students for careers in AI and data analysis through applied, workforce-aligned curriculum.
- Mississippi State University launched a Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence and a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence.
- Belhaven University launched the state's first fully online Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence.
- William Carey University joined MAIN as the first private university partner, expanding AI education and faculty development.

Additionally, AWS reported partnering with AccelerateMS, MDA, Holmes Community College, and Hinds Community College to launch specialized training programs across the state. These efforts have engaged more than 1,000 education and workforce leaders and provided training to over 6,500 learners and job seekers throughout Mississippi.

AWS also reported providing support to K-12 STEM programs at Madison County Schools, Canton Public Schools, and Jackson Public Schools (e.g., elementary career awareness programs, middle school STEM experiences/workshops) and to Bean Path, a Jackson-based AI and tech educational nonprofit.

Together, these programs ensure Mississippi learners can enter and advance within AI pathways without leaving the state.

Early Successes and Lessons Learned

In addition to the establishment and early work of MAIN, MAI-TAP, and the AI Innovation Hub, examples of early successes include:

- The Legislative Budget Office's tool shows that centrally governed AI environments can produce consistent, transparent, and reliable outputs for legislative support.

- The food insecurity analytics platform demonstrates how AI can strengthen data-informed decision-making for a critical community need.
- The Secretary of State's (SOS) work shows early promise in reducing manual burden in regulatory processes.

Through its work, MAIN leadership has received the following recognition:

- 2024 Mississippian of the Year, Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP), Jackson Chapter;
- 2025 Rising Star Manager Award, American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Awards of Excellence Gala; and,
- 2025 Hugh I. Peck Research Award, Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS).

A key lesson across projects is that small, well-defined proof of concepts—supported by ITS, MAIN, agency teams, AWS technical guidance, and faculty mentors—allow Mississippi to explore AI safely and pragmatically.

The Challenges of AI: Risks and Opportunities

This chapter discusses:

- the pace at which AI is changing;
- the risks associated with AI; and,
- the opportunities associated with AI.

Pace at which AI is Changing

The AI environment is changing rapidly, marked by significant technological advancements, widespread integration into industries, growing economic impact, and increased focus on regulation and sustainability.

AI is not coming, it is already here, with investment and adoption increasing in both the private and public sectors. However, the ability to take advantage of AI will likely be felt more in the next five to ten years, as test cases for practical and real-world AI use in the both the private and public sector prove successful and are expanded. Further, efforts continue to develop both specialized AI to target specific fields and agentic AI.

In its 2024 survey of "enterprise-scale organizations", IBM found the primary factors driving AI adoption include advances in AI tools that make them more accessible (45%), the need to reduce organizational costs and automate key processes (42%), and the increasing amount of AI embedded into standard off-the-shelf business applications (37%).

In contrast, IBM found the top barriers hindering successful AI adoption at enterprises both exploring or deploying AI were limited AI skills and expertise (33%), too much data complexity (25%), ethical concerns (23%), AI projects that are too difficult to integrate and scale (22%), high price (21%), and lack of tools for AI model development (21%). IBM also found Generative AI posed different barriers to entry from traditional AI models: primarily, data privacy (57%) and trust and transparency (43%).

Factors potentially limiting AI growth include, but are not limited to:

- the upfront investment costs and the ability to identify proof cases that have a positive return on investment;
- any current and future regulations restricting or limiting AI use, particularly in relation to safety or protection of private data/property; and,

- energy costs associated with operating and implementing AI, particularly the extent to which, if any, those costs impact the general population in terms of higher utility bills (e.g., water, electric, natural gas).

This section discusses the growth of AI in the private sector (nationally) and public sector (Mississippi only) as well as the increased investment in AI technology and the growing presence of AI use in e-commerce.

McKinsey and Company: State of AI in 2025 Survey

On November 5, 2025, McKinsey and Company published its survey on the State of AI in 2025. McKinsey and Company reported almost all survey respondents say their organizations are using AI, and many have begun to use AI agents. However, most are still in the early stages of scaling AI and capturing enterprise-level value.

McKinsey and Company reported the following key findings:

- *Most organizations are still in the experimentation or piloting phase*: 62% of respondents say their organizations have not yet begun scaling AI across the enterprise, with 32% still in the experimenting phase and 30% in the piloting phase. 31% reported being in the process of scaling their positive AI proof of concept across the organization, while only 7% of surveyed organizations had fully deployed and integrated at least one AI program across their organization.
- *Organizations have a "high curiosity" in AI agents*: 62% of survey respondents say their organizations are at least experimenting with AI agents. This includes the 23% of respondents that report their organizations are scaling an agentic AI system somewhere in their enterprises (that is, expanding the deployment and adoption of the technology within a least one business function), and an additional 39% say they have begun experimenting with AI agents.
- *Positive leading indicators on impact of AI*: Respondents report use-case-level cost and revenue benefits, and 64% say that AI is enabling their innovation. However, only 39% report AI use has had an impact at the enterprise level on their earnings before accounting for interest and taxes (EBIT).
- *High performers use AI to drive growth, innovation, and cost*: 80% of respondents say their companies set efficiency as an objective of their AI initiatives, but the companies seeing the most value from AI often set growth or innovation as additional objectives. 39% of respondents attribute any level of EBIT impact to AI with most respondents capping AI' impact on of their organization's EBIT at less than 5%. However, McKinsey reported respondents stated AI has benefitted other qualitative outcomes, including innovation (64%), customer satisfaction (45%), employee satisfaction (45%), and attraction and retention of talent (33%).
- *Redesigning workflows is a key success factor*: Half of those AI high performers intend to use AI to transform their businesses with most redesigning their existing workflows.

- *Differing perspectives on employment impact*: Respondents vary in their expectations of AI's impact on the overall workforce size of their organizations in the coming year: 32% expect decreases; 43% expect no change; and 13% expect increases.

Private Capital Expenditures on AI Technologies and Infrastructure

As shown in Exhibit 2 on page 23, S&P Global found U.S. companies invested more than $335 billion in artificial intelligence between 2013 and 2023. S&P Global reported the U.S. created 5,509 AI companies during the same ten-year period, nearly four times that of second-place China's 1,446.

Exhibit 2: Cumulative Private Sector Investment in AI, by Country, 2013 to 2023

Country	Cumulative Private Sector Investment in AI
United States	$335.2 billion
China	$103.2 billion
United Kingdom	$22.7 billion
Israel	$12.8 billion
Canada	$10.6 billion
Germany	$10.4 billion
India	$9.9 billion
France	$8.3 billion
South Korea	$7.3 billion
Singapore	$6.3 billion

SOURCE: As reported by Axios (citing S&P Global), July 9, 2024.

Harvard Business School's Institute for Business in Global Society wrote the pace of investment has since expanded greatly. CNBC reported that in 2024, four major U.S. companies—Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft—had over $230 billion in total capital expenditures on AI technologies and infrastructure. CNBC further reported the same four companies planned 2025 AI-related capital expenditures totaling a combined $320 billion, an increase of approximately $90 billion from 2024. At the time, CNBC reported Amazon offered the most ambitious spending initiative among the four, aiming to spend over $100 billion, up from $83 billion in 2024.

All that investment is also expected to create opportunity. The market for AI-related hardware and software could approach $1 trillion by 2027, growing by 40% to 55% annually, according to an analysis by Bain & Company.

Growing AI Use in E-Commerce

AI is also beginning to transform the e-commerce experience for shoppers, changing how customers purchase and browse for goods. Per CNBC, in April 2025, Mastercard said it

was testing a feature called Agent Pay that allows AI agents to shop online for customers. Amazon began testing a "Buy For Me" offering the same month, while PayPal and Perplexity joined forces on agentic shopping tools. While the data is limited, Visa said, *the tools could be useful for consistent purchases made by consumers or events like concert tickets*.

In e-commerce, VISA released findings from its consumer survey that found increased AI use in consumer shopping. Visa reported 47% U.S. shoppers surveyed have used an AI tool for at least one shopping task, with "finding gift ideas" ranking as the top AI-assisted use. When it comes to agentic commerce, price comparison is the most compelling application. However, Visa's survey found, *as shoppers integrate AI into their routines*, they also still have concerns about utilizing AI, including:

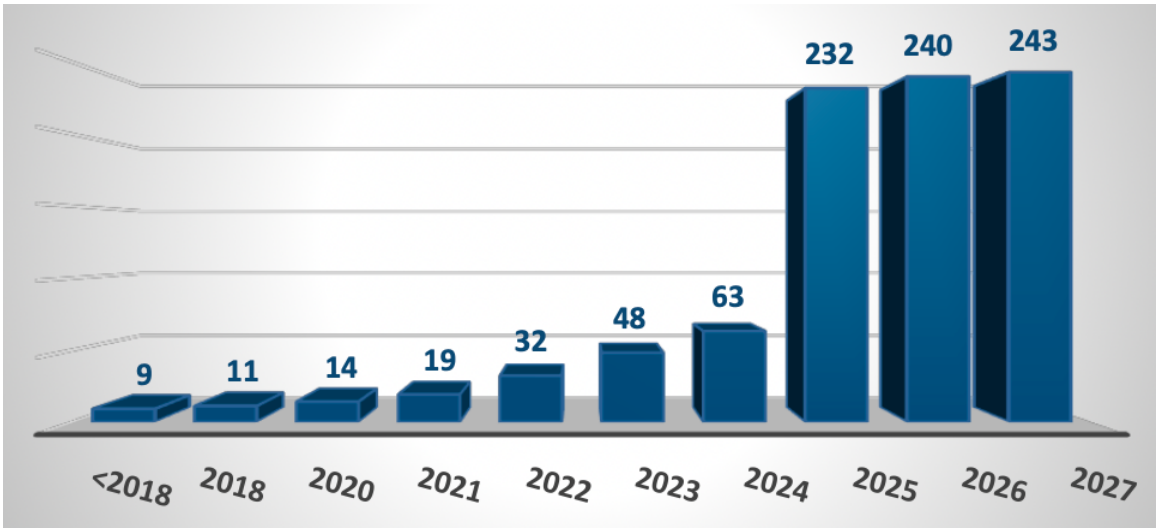
- 61% prefer human interaction for customer service;
- 60% want to better understand how AI-powered shopping tools use their personal data, signaling that transparency and trust will be key to driving broader adoption; and,
- 66% of those surveyed worry friends or family could fall victim to an online scam this season with 39% having encountered at least one online scam in the past year.

As of December 18, 2025, Visa planned to launch pilot programs in Asia and Europe next year and is working with over 20 partners on AI agent tools.

Increased AI Use by Mississippi State Agencies

The statewide AI inventory identified a cumulative total of 243 AI solution projects in state government, including active and planned projects. As reported in the first statewide AI inventory, the number of active and planned state government AI projects has increased from 11 in 2018 to 63 in 2024 to 232 in 2025. Exhibit 3 on page 25 depicts the cumulative growth of AI use by Mississippi state agencies from 2018 to 2025. Regarding maturity, ITS found 166 projects (70%) were already in active use. Another 32 projects (13%) were in planning, 21 projects (9%) were being piloted, and smaller groups were acquiring or developing AI solutions. ITS concluded that this distribution reflects a statewide progression from initial experimentation toward broad operational deployment, with AI increasingly embedded in routine administrative and service functions.

Exhibit 3: Cumulative Growth of AI Uses in Mississippi State Agencies, 2018 to 2025



SOURCE: As reported by ITS in the *2025 Mississippi State Agency AI Inventory Report.*

Risks Associated with AI

AI presents real risks that warrant serious attention, particularly regarding: privacy data protection, and intellectual property concerns; cybersecurity and misuse by bad actors; education institutional risk; impact on the labor market; impact on state resources and indirect cost to public; and ethical concerns.

Privacy, Data Protection, and Intellectual Property Concerns

The rise of AI, which uses data to train its large language models, and its use in a growing number of everyday technologies underscores questions about protecting data. Companies require large volumes of data to train the models that power generative AI tools, and this process has come under intense scrutiny. For example, Built-In[7] reported concerns over companies collecting consumers' personal data had led the FTC to open an investigation in 2023 into whether OpenAI has negatively impacted consumers through its data collection methods after the company potentially violated European data protection laws.

Training AI models with personally identifiable information that has been made public increases the chances of data security breaches that could expose consumers' personal information. A 2025 Cisco survey determined that although respondent organizations continue to see the value of AI, one outlier relates to the risk that GenAI could hurt a company's legal rights in the form of copyright or intellectual property. This concern decreased from 69% in 2023 to 55% in 2024. Cisco concluded that this decline suggests that there is growing awareness of Responsible AI and better governance and controls

[7] A company that writes articles on the tech industry and tracks the tech industry job market.

regarding the input of sensitive data into GenAI tools. Similarly, as organizations become more skilled in using GenAI, worries about the potential for sensitive information leaks have reduced slightly, from 68% to 64% of respondents. Interestingly, while the concern has decreased, nearly half of respondents still reported inputting personal employee information or non-public information into GenAI tools.

Cisco also found there is support for 86% of respondents support strong privacy laws related to AI data (up from 80% in 2024). Cisco concluded that this is because:

- Awareness of privacy laws correlate to better efforts by the organization adopting AI to take proactive steps to protect its own data and limit what it shares publicly;
- Privacy laws mandate transparency, fairness, and accountability, ensuring that users (e.g., customers) understand how their data is used and that it is used appropriately and responsibly; and,
- This transparency allows consumers to engage with GenAI technologies with greater confidence, knowing that legal safeguards are in place to protect their personal data.

AI could shift the perspective on certain legal questions, depending on how generative AI lawsuits continue to unfold. This can particularly relate to the data that generative AI utilizes to craft texts, images, videos, scripts, etc., and whether and to what extent the generative AI systems utilized copyrighted works produced by an artist(s), photographer(s), or writer(s) in developing new works. For example, Built-In reported, *the issue of intellectual property has come to the forefront in light of copyright lawsuits filed against OpenAI and Anthropic by writers, musicians, and companies like The New York Times*.

Cybersecurity and Misuse by Bad Actors

AI may complicate and speed up perennial cybersecurity challenges and may provide new methods for bad actors to scam, defraud, or threaten others. In December 2025, a Boston Consulting Group survey of 500 executives found AI is making cybersecurity more complex, with organizations facing three simultaneous challenges:

- stopping AI-powered attacks;
- applying AI to strengthen their own cybersecurity defenses; and,
- protecting the AI systems they build or use.

As to the latter point, Boston Consulting Group wrote, *as organizations embed AI across products, operations, and workflows, their AI systems have emerged as a new class of assets requiring protection*.

Boston Consulting Group found more than half of executives now rank AI cyber risks among their top three organizational risks. However, Boston Consulting Group also found respondents did not feel their existing cybersecurity budgets, talent, technology maturity, and regulations were keeping pace with the pace at which threats are

increasing. Boston Consulting Group noted that AI is enabling bad actors to automate large parts of the cyber threat (a term Boston Consulting Group referred to as "cyber kill chain"). Boston Consulting Group concluded such AI-enabled attacks can and have already caused operational shutdowns, financial losses, and regulatory penalties. Examples of successful attacks cited by Boston Consulting Group include:

- A major health care provider faced an advanced AI-enabled ransomware attack that encrypted electronic records, billing, and scheduling systems, forcing surgery delays.
- A multinational engineering firm lost $25 million after employees were deceived by an AI-generated deepfake video impersonating the firm's chief financial officer.
- A telecom provider was fined $1 million after attackers used AI voice cloning to spoof election-related robocalls.

The use of deepfakes technology, i.e., utilizing AI to create false audio, images, or video, is an attempt to make scams seem more real. For example, this could occur by falsifying a public official's voice (e.g., Commissioner of Department of Revenue) as a part of a robo-system call to convince individuals to provide personal information related to their tax return over the phone. If the target(s) is unable to identify deepfakes, the impact of misinformation could be dangerous to individuals as well as private and public organization. Deepfakes have been used to promote political propaganda, commit financial fraud, and place students in compromising positions, among other use cases.

NCSL reported as of January 23, 2025, that at least half of states passed over 40 new laws pertaining to deepfake technology, which uses AI to create false audio, images or video. At least 19 states passed legislation related to sexually explicit deepfakes. Of those states, 12 focused generally on fabricated sexually explicit images, and others homed in on these types of materials that depict minors. Florida enacted legislation (Title XLVI, Chapter 827) to establish a crime for the creation of computer-generated child pornography. Washington's new law (H 1999) amends the state's child pornography law to include digitally fabricated content. Among other elements, the law creates a civil cause of action for adult and minor victims impacted by the nonconsensual disclosure of artificial intimate images. Indiana (H 1047) expanded the state's revenge porn law to include unauthorized AI-generated content.

Further, NCSL reported at least 10 states enacted laws related to the use of deepfakes in election and political messaging. Arizona passed two election-focused AI bills in 2024. One new law (H 2394) allows for any candidate to sue if a "digital impersonation" of the person is published. The second new law (S 1359) requires disclosure of the use of a deepfake of a political candidate within 90 days of an election. Utah (S 131) also enacted a new law requiring disclosure of a deepfake in a political advertisement for a candidate or ballot measure, but the law applies any time before a primary or an election.

Education Institutional Risk

One of the most significant risks of rapid AI advancement is the growing structural mismatch between the pace of technological change and the speed at which educational institutions can adapt. This mismatch exists at all levels: K–12, higher education, and workforce training. AI capabilities are evolving on timelines measured in months. By contrast, educational systems are governed by policies, funding models, accreditation standards, curriculum approval cycles, and accountability frameworks that often move on multi-year timelines. Dr. Jordan, Senior Advisor for AI and Data Governance at Mississippi State University, stated, *this has the potential to create a widening gap between what learners will encounter in the real world and what formal education systems are structurally permitted to teach, assess, and acknowledge*.

Panelists speaking to the Task Force supported adoption of AI-related curriculum at the elementary, middle school, high school, and higher education levels. More so, panelists supported AI-related curriculum that crosses beyond the typical computer technology classes normally reserved for mass technological change adoption. Due to the changing environment, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College reported efforts to modify portions of their curriculum on a six month to one year basis.

Dr. Jordan concluded that, *if left unaddressed, this gap carries a serious long-term risk: educational institutions may increasingly be perceived as misaligned with contemporary skills, practices, and forms of work, even when educators themselves are highly motivated and capable*. The risk is not that education becomes unimportant, but that it becomes institutionally constrained in ways that will limit relevance. Dr. Jordan added, *This is a systems problem: the governing structures surrounding education were designed for a slower, more stable technological era*.

From a state policy perspective, the central question is how much flexibility do school and university leaders have to respond responsibly to this extraordinary moment? In a world where AI reshapes how knowledge is produced, evaluated, and applied, educational systems must be able to adapt faster than they currently do, while still protecting students, maintaining standards, and preserving public trust. Dr. Jordan further concluded that *the greatest risk to education may not be misuse of AI technology, but the inability of educational systems to adapt quickly enough to remain relevant, credible, and responsive to the world learners are entering*.

However, Chris Chism, Superintendent of Pearl Public Schools and a recognized utilizer of AI in public schools, cautioned that while implementing AI in the school system strategically in small doses can be very beneficial, mass implementation of AI programs and AI tools without proper training and the necessary skillsets is likely to be ineffective.

Impact on the Labor Market

While industry adoption of AI offers the opportunity for increased efficiencies and improved economies of scale, AI also poses a threat to the labor market. Increasingly capable AI is beginning to displace entry level workers, or in some cases, pause the hiring

cycle until industry can identify what jobs can be replaced by AI and what jobs are needed in the future. A high percentage of jobs have tasks that have the potential to be automated by AI. Human jobs are most at risk if most common work tasks in the profession can be automated by AI. In contrast, human work that can be augmented by AI, not replaced through automation, has the potential to have an even higher value due to productivity gains.

In its 2024 survey of "enterprise-scale organizations", IBM found AI was already having an impact on the workforce, reporting:

- AI Skill Gap – One-in-five organizations report they do not have employees with the right skills in place to use new AI or automation tools; further, 16% of organizations cannot find new hires with the skills to address that gap.
- Addressing labor/skills shortages with AI where possible – Among companies citing AI's use to address labor or skills shortages, they are tapping AI to do things like reduce manual or repetitive tasks with automation tools (55%) or automate customer self-service answers and actions (47%).

More so, IBM found only 34% of surveyed organizations reported currently training or reskilling employees to work together with new automation and AI tools.

In its *Canaries in the Coal Mine? Six Facts about the Recent Employment Effects of Artificial Intelligence* report (dated November 13, 2025), Stanford researchers found that since the widespread adoption of generative AI, early-career workers (ages 22-25) in the most AI-exposed occupations have experienced a 13% relative decline in employment even after controlling for firm-level shocks. In contrast, researchers found employment for workers in less exposed fields and more experienced workers in the same occupations has remained stable or continued to grow.

In jobs less exposed to AI, Stanford researchers found young workers have experienced comparable employment growth to older workers. In contrast, workers aged 22 to 25 have experienced a 6% decline in employment from late 2022 to September 2025 in the most AI-exposed occupations, compared to a 6% to 9% increase for older workers.

Impact on State Resources and Indirect Costs to Public

With the rise of AI, CSG South reported the data center industry has continued to grow rapidly – 782% since 2022. This growth has led to increased demand for key resources, including energy and water.

While AI has the potential to revolutionize the way things are done, AI also requires a significant amount of resources, even for relatively small tasks. The Council of State Governments (CSG) South, in its December 19, 2025, policy brief *Data Centers in the South: Looking Under the Hood at Resource Usage*, cited a Washington Post article that reported generating a 100-word AI-produced email may use roughly one bottle's worth of water

(17.5 fluid ounces) and approximately 0.14 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, depending on system design, location, and other variables.[8]

In terms of future data center energy usage, estimates vary. CSG South reported data center energy usage forecasts range from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)'s estimate of 230 terawatt hours (TWh) by 2030 to the Boston Consulting Group estimate of 1,050 TWh by 2030. CSG South added estimates average out to approximately 450 TWh with a median of 375 TWh by 2030.

Ethical Concerns

The rapid deployment of AI-powered tools has raised concerns about when AI should and should not be used, the potential for bias in AI, and concerns about accuracy and privacy. For example, NCSL reported on November 11, 2025, that, *states have enacted legislation to address potential biases in AI technologies used for hiring employees, conducting employee evaluations and other employment decisions.* NCSL added that states also have focused on the use of technology by law enforcement with at least 18 states having considered legislation to regulate law enforcement's use of facial recognition technology in the last five years.

At the November 2025 Task Force hearing, Ethan Davis, the Assistant Director for the Center for Practical Ethics at the University of Mississippi, addressed some of the potential ethical concerns related to AI. Mr. Davis stated one of the primary questions is/will be: *Do people have a right to know when they are talking to a machine?* Should items (e.g., news, videos, music, reports, literature, etc.) produced by AI be labeled as such. The Task Force considered regulations requiring disclosure of the use of AI to the user, but limiting such regulations to government entities (e.g., state agencies and local governing authorities including but not limited to municipalities, counties, and school districts). The Task Force additionally considered limiting regulations requiring disclosure of the use of AI to direct interactions with chatbots and other non-human generated systems, not information published on a website or in a report document. Concerns were that if state agencies or educational institutions had to at some point publish disclosures of the use of AI or webpages or documents released, they may issue a blanket disclaimer that states the information may have come from generative AI, which neither confirms nor denies the use of AI. Given such, the Task Force determined it was best to limit such recommendations to non-human systems designed to interact with humans (currently AI-enhanced chatbots, but in the future AI agents).

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[8] Pranshu Verma and Shelly Tan, "A Bottle of Water Per Email: The Hidden Environmental Costs of Using AI Chatbots," *The Washington Post*, September 18, 2024, washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/09/18/energy-ai-use-electricity-water-data-centers/.

Mr. Davis advised the Task Force to be careful about outsourcing mental healthcare to AI, especially for younger age participants (K-12). Examples of other ethical questions posed by Mr. Davis included:

- Considering the rapid developments of AI systems and technologies, what does "responsible innovation" mean?
- In so far as AI systems have capacities such as memory, give advice, make recommendations, and learn from past data/information, should legislation be modeled after protection from harmful products or from harmful people?
- Given that AI systems are not explainable nor transparent even to their designers, what is the trustworthiness of an AI system based on?
- Given that most AI systems are not mere tools, but interact and engage with end users, how should we apportion responsibility when seeking accountability?

Some of these questions are already being tested initially in the courts. For example, a family is suing the OpenAI – the makers of ChatGPT – after their 23-year-old son committed suicide following conversations with the chatbot that reportedly encouraged the act.

Opportunities Associated with AI

AI presents substantial opportunities for Mississippi. Opportunities associated with AI include:

- improving government services and efficiency;
- strengthening economic development and attracting AI and software investment;
- expanding workforce opportunity through upskilling and productivity gains; and,
- supporting healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, transportation, and public safety.

Education and workforce development are both central to capturing these benefits. Because education is primarily a state function, Mississippi is well positioned to lead by scaling AI literacy and applied skills across K-12, higher education, and workforce training through MAIN.

There is also an opportunity to plan for and begin implementing changes to the state power grid necessary to power AI demand and the resource-intensive data centers that accompany it. Updates to the power grid will be needed to support new data centers built in the state, including Amazon's planned $3 billion Warren County campus; AVAIO Digital's $6 billion AI-ready campus in Brandon; Amazon $10 billion data center in Madison County, and Compass Datacenters in Meridian. Most recently, Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company xAI announced it is investing more than $20 billion to build

a hyperscale data center in Southaven. A new data center is also being built at the research park at Mississippi State University to expand its capacity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given that AI is dynamic and that the Task Force will report for three consecutive years—2025 through 2027—(or 2026 through 2028 since the first report will be out early 2026), this chapter seeks to address the following:

- actions or safeguards that need to be taken now;
- structures, priorities, or subject areas that should be put in place to guide the AIR Task Force's continued work;
- need for continued study, monitoring, or pilot projects;
- ongoing data, expertise, or advisory capacity needed by the Legislature and state agencies as AI continues to evolve;
- closing perspective; and,
- recommendations.

Actions or Safeguards that Need to be Taken Now

MAIN's director identified the following actions and safeguards to take now:

- apply existing law when AI is the tool, rather than creating broad pre-approval regimes;
- strengthen institutional capacity, including training for agencies, educators, and workforce leaders; and,
- improve data governance and procurement discipline for AI deployments.

Mississippi, likely led by ITS, should establish state standards for utilization of AI, data governance, and criteria for when it is acceptable to share data and how so. This might consist of an overarching state policy with localized policies specific to an agency needs, operational flow, and capabilities.

Monitoring of Existing Law in Light of the President's Executive Order on AI

In light of the President's Executive Order 14365 and any future federal AI legislation, the AIR Task Force will need to further consider if any additional legislation is needed in relation to cybersecurity, fraud, child abuse and exploitation, disclosure of AI use (particularly when interacting with consumers or patients), and acceptable use of AI in the education and medical fields. For example, to what extent can AI be used to tutor students or assist in providing medical care.

The Office of the Attorney General determined that Mississippi has not implemented an over-arching framework on AI through statute or regulation and reported that there are four identifiable statutes that reference "artificial intelligence" as of January 1, 2026:

- MISS. CODE ANN. Section 25-53-301 (1972): Establishes the Artificial Intelligence Regulation Task Force. Section 25-53-301(1) contains a definition of AI that references a definition of AI under federal law.
- MISS. CODE ANN. Section 25-53-263 (1972): Establishes the Technology Innovation Fund and provides as one of the objectives of the fund: *Facilitate research, prototyping, and piloting of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, data analytics, and cloud computing.*
- MISS. CODE ANN. Section 37-13-207 (1972): Allows the State Department of Education to include instruction on artificial intelligence in the computer science curriculum.
- MISS. CODE ANN. Section 97-13-47 (1972): Creates the election crime of wrongful dissemination of a digitization, which defines digitization as the creation of an image or audio through the use of machine learning artificial intelligence.

Beyond the four enumerated statutes, the Office of the Attorney General stated the State will have to continue to monitor how Executive Order 14365 may impact other recently enacted non-AI specific State laws that have an on-line component.

For instance, the Legislature, through H.B. 1308, recently amended MISS. CODE ANN. Section 97-5-31 (1972) to change the definition of "child" and "morphed image", regarding offenses affecting children, to remove the requirement that a child be an "identifiable" child and that a morphed image appear to be an "identifiable" minor. The definition of "identifiable child" was also removed from the statute.

When asked specifically about language on existing laws that relate to protection of children 18 years or younger, the Office of the Attorney General found there are no existing state laws that reference both "artificial intelligence" and children eighteen years old or younger in the same CODE section.

However, the Office of the Attorney General stated until the Secretary of Commerce publishes the 90-day report (by the end of March 2026), no determination can be made on how the amendments to MISS. CODE ANN. Section 97-5-31 or any other state laws may be implicated, if at all, by Executive Order 14365.

Section 4 of Executive Order 14365 on AI requires that, within 90-days from the date of the order, the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the Special Advisor for AI and Crypto, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, and the Assistant to the President and Counsel to the President, "publish an evaluation of existing State AI laws that identifies onerous laws that conflict with the policy" set forth in Executive Order 14365. As a method of enforcement, Section 5 of Executive Order 14365 authorizes the potential withholding of

broadband funding (under the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program) if states are determined to have onerous AI laws.

Structures, Priorities, or Subject Areas that Should be Put in Place to Guide the AIR Task Force's Continued Work

To study specific areas and report back to the taskforce, the AIR Task Force plans to establish subcommittees. These subcommittees would target particular areas identified in S.B. 2426 or other areas determined by the Task Force, including but not limited to: education and workforce development; AI in state government; private industry needs (e.g., power demand, workforce, skills, etc.) and potential incentives; healthcare; ethics and transparency; agriculture; entertainment; and, public safety, fraud prevention, and cybersecurity.

MAIN's director identified the following structures and priorities to guide the Task Force's work over the next two years:

- use MAIN as the statewide implementation and measurement backbone;
- expand applied AI pilots tied to workforce and service outcomes; and,
- establish controlled pilot or sandbox frameworks for high-impact use cases.

One area of potential study would be a collaboration between MAIN, Accelerated Mississippi, the universities, the community and junior colleges, and the Mississippi Department of Education to develop a pilot, modifiable AI learning plan for elementary, middle school, and high school students, college and career training students, and the existing workforce. Such plans would be flexible and subject to modification on 6-month to 1-year intervals, particularly for high school or older participants.

Another area of potential study would be a government transformation committee focusing on how to continue to deploy AI at both the state and local levels and across agencies (e.g., Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, UMMC, and Division of Medicaid), or across local governments (e.g., Madison, Ridgeland, Flora, Gluckstadt, Canton, Madison County).

Speakers discussed the potential of utilizing the sandbox training method, an educational approach where learners (e.g., teachers, administrators) are placed in environments or situations that closely resemble real-life scenarios but without any risk. In other words, the sandbox emphasizes hands-on, experiential learning in a safe and controlled environment.

Need for Continued Study, Monitoring, or Pilot Projects

MAIN's director identified the following areas for continued study, monitoring, or pilot projects:

- rapid-response readiness for scalable misuse and impersonation;
- government modernization pilots;
- workforce transition impacts;
- education impacts including educator preparation and student support;
- ongoing capacity needs;
- standing advisory and technical expertise;
- continuous measurement of adoption and outcomes; and,
- sustained public–private–academic partnerships.

Beyond current work, AWS's representative suggested additional opportunities include:

- agentic AI for multi-step administrative processes — systems capable of coordinating multi-stage tasks (e.g., information gathering, cross-referencing data, preparing drafts) with human oversight;
- AI tools to navigate and interpret data across agencies, enabling better decision-making without exposing sensitive systems;
- AI-assisted citizen-service interfaces, especially to support rural residents who need help navigating forms, programs, and government information; and,
- predictive analytics for operational planning, including resource allocation, caseload management, inspection cycles, and emergency preparedness.

AWS's representative stated these opportunities do not overlap with current projects and represent areas for further exploration.

Ongoing Data, Expertise, or Advisory Capacity Needed by the Legislature and State Agencies as AI Continues to Evolve

To support responsible statewide adoption, AWS's representative stated Mississippi state agencies and the Task Force will likely benefit from:

- additional staffing capacity at ITS to manage agency demand, coordinate Innovation Hub projects, support student teams, and expand the program to more universities; and,
- sustained access to technical expertise—particularly in AI governance, safety, model evaluation, and emerging capabilities such as agentic AI—to provide consistent guidance to agencies and the Legislature.

Closing Perspective

Mississippi has already organized a coordinated AI ecosystem that includes executive investment, workforce agency support, deep industry partnerships, statewide curriculum scaled through public institutions, expanding academic programs, and applied learning events. MAIN is the connective infrastructure that ensures these efforts compound rather than fragment.

The opportunity before Mississippi is to be known for a prepared workforce, applied AI deployment, predictable innovation conditions, and targeted safeguards grounded in existing law. This approach allows Mississippi not only to manage AI responsibly, but to compete and lead.

Recommendations

At its meeting on January 13, 2026, the AIR Task Force adopted the following recommendations:

1. The Legislature should pass legislation adopting a state definition for AI. The AIR Task Force recommends adopting the definition for "artificial intelligence" as included in Mississippi Senate Bill 2426, Laws of 2025, Section 10 (1) and restated here to have the same meaning as set forth in 15 USC § 9401(3):

   > *A machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action.*

2. The AIR Task Force recommends that state agencies, boards, and commissions, and local governing authorities (e.g., counties, municipalities, school districts) provide clear disclosure when citizens engage with conversational artificial intelligence systems, including but not limited to chat bots, in official or public-facing services, so that individuals are informed that they are interacting with a non-human system. The AIR Task Force adopts this recommendation in the interest of promoting transparency, accountability, and public trust while ensuring appropriate human oversight and compliance with applicable legal, privacy, and security requirements.

Report Attachments

Attachment A: S.B. 2426, 2025 Regular Session

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2025

By: Senator(s) Williams To: Technology

SENATE BILL NO. 2426

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REGULATION (AIR) TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE, INCLUDING EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS; TO SPECIFY THE TASK FORCE'S PURPOSE AND DUTIES; TO DIRECT THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND EVALUATE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATIONS, RISKS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS; TO REQUIRE THAT THE TASK FORCE WILL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE ANNUALLY; TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS AND SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE'S WORK; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) The State of Mississippi needs to support stakeholders as they gather information and decide the best means to utilize and oversee artificial intelligence (AI) tools and systems used by the State of Mississippi's governing bodies;

(b) The Legislature acknowledges that artificial intelligence cannot replace human creativity and involvement and so promotes responsibly using AI tools and systems while aligning and adhering to the state's long term policies, goals, values and missions while maintaining citizen trust and balancing the

benefits, risks and potential dangers of artificial intelligence; and

(c) As the use of artificial intelligence has implications for state, national and personal security and privacy, the use of artificial intelligence must be conducted in a responsible, ethical, transparent and beneficial manner.

(2) There is hereby established the Artificial Intelligence Regulation (Air) Task Force.

(3) (a) The task force shall consist of the following seven (7) voting members:

(i) The Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House shall each appoint one (1) respective member of the Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of Representatives to serve as co-chairs of the task force;

(ii) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, or his or her designee;

(iii) The Director of the Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN), or his or her designee;

(iv) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security, or his or her designee;

(v) The Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, or his or her designee; and

(vi) The Attorney General of Mississippi, or his or her designee.

(b) The Chairpersons of the Artificial Intelligence Regulation (AIR) Task Force, with the advice and consent of the remaining official executive agency committee members specified in paragraph (a), or their respective designees, may appoint ex-officio nonvoting members to the task force to serve in an advisory capacity for such terms to be determined at the discretion of the task force. The voting members of the task force, upon a majority of its membership, present and voting, and spread upon its minutes, may reduce or expand the number of ex-officio members who may serve, provided that such members are deemed necessary to provide expertise or access to resources involving AI technology and are representative of:

(i) Workforce development, who possesses expert knowledge of and experience with AI technology;

(ii) Elementary and secondary education, public or private, who possesses expert knowledge of and experience with AI technology;

(iii) Four-year postsecondary education, public or private, who possesses expert knowledge of and experience with AI technology;

(iv) Two-year postsecondary education, public or proprietary, who possesses expert knowledge of and experience with AI technology;

(v) Healthcare, who possesses expert knowledge of and experience with AI technology;

(vi) Private business entity, who possesses expert knowledge of and experience with AI technology, including, but not limited to:

1. Data storage and management;

2. Cloud computing infrastructure;

3. Computer power provided by graphic processing units, tensor processing units and quantum computing;

4. Data processing and preparation through data cleaning, data integration and ETL (extract, transform and load) process;

5. AI algorithms and frameworks;

6. AI software and applications;

7. Data security and privacy;

8. AI governance and ethical frameworks;

9. Integration with business processes;

10. Training and talent development; and

(vii) Automation and manufacturing;

(viii) Ethics and transparency;

(ix) Agriculture; and

(x) Entertainment.

(4) The Legislative members named by the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve as co-chairs of the AIR Task Force. The task force must meet within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this act upon the call of the co-chairs, and at its first meeting shall elect any

officers from among its members as it deems necessary for the efficient discharge of the task force's duties.

(5) The task force shall adopt rules and regulations governing times and places for meetings and governing the manner of conducting its business. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting any business of the task force, and a majority vote of all members present shall be required for any recommendations to the Legislature.

(6) The task force shall be responsible for balancing innovation and public interest while endeavoring to mitigate risks and unintended consequences of AI and its regulation. The task force shall:

(a) Facilitate and evaluate through comprehensive review, develop tentative drafts of any necessary proposed revisions to the Mississippi Code involving the regulation of AI technologies, which may or may not include the following:

(i) Fostering innovation by providing an environment for businesses and organizations to develop and test AI systems under relaxed regulatory constraints;

(ii) Regulatory oversight of the designing, testing and refinement of regulations to ensure responsible AI deployment;

(iii) Collaborating with stakeholders to bridge communication and idea exchanges between developers, policymakers

and the public to align AI innovation with ethical and societal goals; and

(iv) Any other areas as deemed necessary by the task force.

(b) Review laws, policies and procedures concerning the use of AI technology established by the United States Congress and other state legislatures, if any, and compile a list of recommendations to include in the report required by this act. The review shall focus on, but not be limited to focusing on:

(i) Privacy and data protection;

(ii) Development for a framework for AI testing;

(iii) Compliance with ethical standards which enforce adherence to fairness, accountability, transparency, disclosures and promoting equitable outcomes;

(iv) Assessment of risk and benefits which measures the societal and economic impact of AI innovations;

(v) Liability;

(vi) Constituent and consumer impact;

(vii) Bias and social impact; and

(viii) Copyright and provenance.

(c) Consider implementation and use of artificial intelligence in state government agencies and compile a list of recommendations of best practices and potential uses for AI technologies in government to include in the report required by this act;

(d) Consider ways to allocate funding for development and use of artificial intelligence technologies in the state and draft proposals accordingly to include in the report required by this act; and

(e) Any other issues related to artificial intelligence technologies that the task force finds appropriate to address.

(7) Members of the task force shall receive a per diem in the amount provided in Section 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the business of the task force. Members of the task force other than the legislative members shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while engaged in official business of the task force in accordance with Section 25-3-41, and the legislative members of the task force shall receive the expense allowance provided for in Section 5-1-47.

(8) The Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review shall provide necessary clerical support for the meetings of the task force and the preparation of the report, with assistance from the clerical and legal staff of the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate.

(9) The task force is authorized to apply for and accept gifts, grants, subsidies and other funds from persons, corporations, foundations, the United States government or other entities, and the receipt of any gifts, grants, subsidies or funds shall be reported and otherwise accounted for in the manner

provided by law. If financial subsidies are sufficient, the task force may hire additional contract staff to support its work.

(10) The term "artificial intelligence" has the meaning set forth in 15 USC § 9401(3): a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. Artificial intelligence systems use machine- and human-based inputs to perceive real and virtual environments; abstract such perceptions into models through analysis in an automated manner; and use model inference to formulate options for information or action.

(11) The task force may request the assistance of the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review, the legal staffs of the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate, or any other related organization with expertise in domestic relations.

(12) The work of the task force described in this act relates to sensitive matters of security. Notwithstanding any other law, the meetings, work and findings of the commission as described in this act are not subject to the requirements of Chapters 41 or 61 of Title 25, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(13) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature annually not later than December 1 each year, and shall dissolve in December 31, 2027.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Source: Senate Bill 2426, 2025 Regular Session.

Attachment B: Summary of Task Force Meetings

Meeting #1: April 17, 2025, at the Mississippi State Capitol

Summary

At its first meeting, the Task Force unanimously approved "chairman's rules" to govern the proceedings (a typical task at the commencement of a committee's operations). The Task Force then discussed the broad range of responsibilities conferred upon it by S.B. 2426.

One responsibility conferred related to the appointment of certain ex officio members who will bring specialized skills to the operations of the Task Force. After deliberation, Representative Ford nominated for inclusion on the Task Force the following:

- a representative of NVIDIA designated by the firm;
- a representative of Amazon AWS designated by the firm;
- Mike Navicky of Mississippi State University; and,
- Gerard Gibert to serve as a representative of a private business entity with experience in AI technology.

Meeting #2: September 25, 2025, at the Mississippi State University Center (MSU) for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS)

Summary

As part of official business, the Task Force unanimously approved Dr. Julie Jordan, MSU Vice President for Research and Economic Development, as the MSU ex officio representative. The Task Force then heard presentations from representatives of MSU, including the following:

- Dr. Jonathan Barlow – "Artificial Intelligence: Where we are, where it's going …";
- Dr. Andy Perkins – "AI in Computer Science and Engineering [degree programs] at MSU";
- Dr. Clay Walden and Dr. Sara Fuller – walking tour and presentation of the MSU Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS);
- Dawn Reynolds – presentation about and tour of MSU High Performance Computing Collaboratory (located at MSU Malcolm Portera Center); and,
- Dr. Alex Thomasson – presentation about the AI-related work of and tour of the MSU Agriculture Autonomy Institute (AAI) (located at MSU Pace Seed Technology Building)

MSU participants, by position, included:

- Dr. Jonathan Barlow, Associate Director/Assistant Professor, Data Science Program;

- Dr. Andy Perkins, Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Bagley College of Engineering;
- Dr. Clay Walden, Executive Director, CAVS;
- Dr. Sara Fuller, Associate Director, CAVS;
- Dawn Reynolds, Interim Director, High Performance Computing Collaboratory; and,
- Dr. Alex Thomasson, Director, Agricultural Autonomy Institute/Head, Department of Agriculture and Biological Engineering, Bagley College of Engineering and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Meeting #3: October 15, 2025, at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Harrison Campus

Summary

The Task Force then heard presentations from representatives of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), including the following:

- Dr. Mary Graham, President, MGCC - Welcome, Introduction, and MGCC rankings (e.g., Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Community, Federally designated as American Maritime Centers of Excellence);
- Dr. Kollin Napier, Director, Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN) – Update on MAIN and Discussion of Short Horizon Related to AI and Mississippi; and,
- Dr. Jonathan Woodward, Vice President of Teaching and Learning and Community Campus, MGCC - AI in the General Education Core, AI Hubs, and the Long Horizon for AI in the Gulf Coast Region.
- Mr. Martin Rivera about the work of the Mississippi Cyber Initiative; and,
- Mr. Dave Allen, Director of Field Operations for the Mississippi Attorney General's Office Cyber Crimes Unit, about the work of the Cyber Crimes Unit

After touring MGCCC computer and technology facilities, members of the Task Force discussed the potential for developing AI policy, AI law and/or regulations, and business incentives. The Task Force was particularly interested in reviewing existing law and determining if modifications need to be made to those laws before crafting new laws, particularly concerning cybercrime and child exploitation. Assistance was requested specifically from the Attorney General's Office and the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security in identify laws that need to be amended or established because of AI.

Meeting #4: November 6, 2025, at the Mississippi State Capitol

Summary

The November meeting consisted of a panelist discussion with four panelists invited to discuss the impact of AI on education, ethics, and healthcare related matters. The four panelists included:

- Ethan Davis – Davis is the Assistant Director for the Center for Practical Ethics on the campus of the University of Mississippi.
- Dr. Sid Dobrin – Dr. Dobrin is a professor and Chair of the English Department at the University of Florida (UF); a member of the Florida Institute for National Security (FINS); Steering Committee, Florida Artificial Intelligence Learning Community (FALCON); Adobe digital thought leader; and, the Founding Director of the Trace Innovation Initiative, a research hub that studies emerging writing technologies such as AI, Augmented Reality (AR), and Virtual Reality (VR).
- Chris Chism – Chism is the Superintendent of Pearl Public Schools, an active user of AI to aid in managing the district (12-13 language models), and a recognized trainer on AI for school systems in Mississippi and nationally. Pearl Public Schools has been active in the use of AI to expedite certain tasks, better obtain and manage data, and to identify methods to reduce workload associated with certain tasks to allow time to focus effort on others (e.g., teacher examples). Mr. Chism stated he has conducted 110 AI-use related trainings, including 60 trainings for interested school districts.
- Brian Scarpelli – Scarpelli is the Executive Director of the Connected Health Initiative, an advocacy group that "works to clarify outdated health regulations, incentivize the use of connected health technologies, and ensure an environment in which patients and consumers can see improvement in their health."

Examples of issues discussed included how should Mississippi approach developing legislation to govern AI; how should Mississippi think about policy to drive economic well-being and not risk-mitigation; and, how should the state approach AI and education?

From an ethical, safety, and legal perspective, Mr. Davis stated one of the primary questions will be: "Do people have a right to know when they are talking to a machine?" Should items (e.g., news, videos, music, reports, literature, etc.) produced by AI be labeled as such.

Meeting #5: December 11, 2025, at the Mississippi State Capitol

Summary

The December meeting also consisted of a panelist discussion with four panelists invited to discuss the impact of AI on business and developing the current and future workforce. The four panelists included:

- Brad Carpenter, Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Executive Vice President of Business Technology – C Spire;
- Phillip Amacker, CMRP, Stamping and GMR Maintenance Manager – Nissan North America;
- Matt Peterson, AI Field Support Center – Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC; and,
- Derek Starling, Sr., PE, PMP, CQE, F.SAME – SOL Engineering Services, LLC.

Examples of issues discussed included:

- what one AI initiative should Mississippi invest in statewide;
- where workforce training is needed;
- the impact AI is having on the workforce and what impact AI is expected to have on the workforce as AI use expands;
- how should policymakers think about guardrails without stifling innovation; and,
- the importance of testing the pilot AI program and developing proof of concept before scaling up.

Meeting #6: January 13, 2026, at the Mississippi State Capitol

Summary

The primary purpose of this meeting was for Task Force members to jointly discuss the first AI Task Force report and any potential revisions or necessary additions prior to it being release to the public. At the request of Co-Chair Bart Williams, the Task Force adopted the definition of AI in the task force's enabling legislation as the definition to include in 2026 legislation as the state definition of AI. Additionally, at the request of Co-Chair Bart Williams, the Task Force approved a motion to amend the report to include:

- a brief discussion setting up the use of AI recommendation and Dr. Napier's submitted recommendation regarding disclosure of the use of conversational AI by state and local governing authorities when such AI is directly interacting with members of the public (e.g., AI-enhanced chat bot, or in the future, an AI agent);
- recognition of the xAI announcement to build a $20B plus data center in Southaven; and,
- necessary grammatical and wording edits identified by task force members or PEER staff as necessary to finish the report.

Source: As compiled by PEER staff.