
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1000 (Becker) - California AI Transparency Act

Version: March 26, 2026
Urgency: Yes
Hearing Date: April 27, 2026

Policy Vote: P., D.T., & C.P. 8 - 1
Mandate: No
Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: SB 1000 makes a number of changes to the California AI Transparency (CAIT) Act.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate civil actions. By expanding who may be considered a covered provider and, consequently, subject to civil penalties with statutory damages, this bill may lead to additional case filings. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of cases filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff workload. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.
- The California Department of Technology (CDT) notes that it would not fall within the definition of covered provider under this bill; therefore, it anticipates only minor and absorbable costs to continue tracking developments in the AI space.

Background: The CAIT Act, beginning August 2, 2026, regulates provenance data disclosure in AI-generated content. “Covered providers” are required to embed latent provenance disclosures in content generated by their generative AI (GenAI) systems and to offer manifest disclosures. Providers are required to make available an AI detection tool at no cost to the user that meets certain criteria, including that it allows a user to assess whether certain content was created or altered by the covered provider’s system.

This bill seeks to clean up the CAIT Act and ensure it accomplishes its intended goal of providing useful transparency to Californians.

Proposed Law:

- Removes the user threshold from the definition of “covered provider.”
- Removes the requirement for covered providers to offer users the option to include a manifest disclosure in content. Requires the latent disclosure to be compliant or interoperable with widely accepted industry standards.

- Redefines “provenance data” to mean information about the origin of a piece of content and the history of modifications to the content that is in a format that is compliant, or interoperable with, widely adopted specifications adopted by an established standards-setting body.
- Replaces references to “AI detection tool” with “disclosure verification tool.”
- Provides that the tool need not detect altered content if only a “minor modification,” which includes any of the following alterations:
 - A change to brightness, contrast, or color.
 - Sharpening.
 - Saturating.
 - Resizing.
 - Scaling.
 - Cropping.
 - Format conversions.
 - Resampling.
 - Denoising and removal of background noise in audio.
- Permits the tool to output personal information that is detected in the content if the user to whom the personal information pertains expressly consents, clearly and conspicuously in plain language, to including personal information specified by the user in the content pursuant to a notice that does both of the following:
 - Informs the user of the personal information that may be output by the tool.
 - Informs the user that once personal information is embedded into provenance data and exported, the information becomes part of the file’s permanent digital footprint and cannot be retracted from copies already in circulation.
- Authorizes covered providers to impose reasonable limitations on access to the tool to prevent misuse of the tool for malicious purposes.
- Reworks the provisions regarding a users’ personal information to provide that a covered provider shall not collect, use, or retain personal information from a user of the covered provider’s AI disclosure verification tool or any content submitted to the disclosure verification tool beyond what is reasonably necessary for user authentication. A covered provider shall not make access to the covered provider’s GenAI system or disclosure verification tool contingent upon providing personal information beyond what is strictly necessary for the specified purposes.
- Reworks the third-party obligations to provide that a covered provider must require by contract that the third-party licensee ensures that the system includes provenance data that meets the specified criteria laid out in the CAIT Act to the extent it is technically feasible. It reduces the time within which a covered provider must revoke a license from 96 hours to 48 hours.
- Amends the exemption to provide that the Act does not apply to a product, service, website, or application that provides exclusively nonuser-generated videogame systems incapable of producing highly realistic videos or images that a reasonable person could confuse with reality.

- Makes other technical and clarifying changes to the CAIT Act.
- Includes an urgency clause and states the measure is necessary for establishing an ecosystem of information online that allows consumers to verify the provenance of content, including, but not limited to, whether or not it was generated or modified by a GenAI system is paramount to combating misinformation and disinformation as it relates to public health, election integrity, preventing fraud, extortion, or using generative artificial intelligence to create content for other malicious purposes.
- States legislative findings and declarations.

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