

Date of Hearing: August 20, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 524 (Arreguín) – As Amended July 17, 2025

Policy Committee:	Public Safety	Vote:	6 - 0
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		12 - 2

Urgency: No      State Mandated Local Program: Yes      Reimbursable: Yes

**SUMMARY:**

This bill regulates use of artificial intelligence (AI) by law enforcement agencies to draft reports.

Specifically, among other provisions, this bill:

- 1) Requires each law enforcement agency to maintain a policy to require an official report prepared by a member of a law enforcement agency (LEA) that is generated using AI to contain a disclosure on each page that AI was used to write the report and the signature of the member of the LEA verifying the contents of the report, as specified.
- 2) Requires an LEA to retain the first draft of each report created using AI for as long as the LEA retains the final report.
- 3) Specifies that except for the final report, a draft of any report created using AI shall not constitute an officer's official statement.
- 4) Provides that except for the final report, a draft of any report created with the use of artificial intelligence does not constitute an officer's official statement.
- 5) Requires a program used to generate a draft, interim, or final report to maintain an audit trail that contains information about the person who used AI to create the report and any video and audio footage used to create the report.
- 6) Prohibits a contracted vendor from sharing, selling, or otherwise using information provided by an LEA to be processed by AI, except as specified.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Costs (General Fund, special funds, local funds) to each LEA in the state to adopt conforming policies and ensure AI tools comply with the bill's requirements. There are approximately 600 LEAs in California. Although costs may be minor for each individual agency, in the aggregate statewide, costs may be significant, possibly in excess of \$150,000. The state must reimburse local LEA costs from the General Fund if the Commission on State Mandates determines the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate. For their part, the Department of Justice reports no fiscal impact, and the California Highway Patrol reports it does not use AI technology for reports and would incur a minor and absorbable cost to implement an AI policy.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Background.** Generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Claude have become ubiquitous in many American workplaces. These types of tools can process written, audio, or video data input by a user and generate a summary, create a transcript, or analyze data. Many industries view these AI tools as a way to expedite paperwork and streamline operations, freeing up workers to focus on other tasks. This bill focuses on use of AI tools by LEAs to draft reports. Peace officers spend a significant portion of their working time writing police reports to document arrests, investigations, and other incidents. According to the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection:

companies such as Axon and Truleo have developed GenAI-powered services to assist in drafting initial police reports. These systems allow officers to link body-worn camera footage to GenAI tools that analyze the incident and generate a draft report. Officers are encouraged to narrate events in real time, as the technology relies on audio rather than video to produce the report. This technology has already been adopted in several Bay Area communities, including East Palo Alto, Campbell, and San Mateo.

However, generative AI technology is far from a perfect tool: among other issues, it replicates biases and errors that are present in its training data and requires significant human review to ensure the accuracy and completeness of its work. The accuracy of police reports is especially important because they are a primary source of evidence in the criminal justice system, and are used to inform decisions about charging, pretrial detention, sentencing, and post-release supervision.

- 2) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the California Public Defenders Association. According to the author, “This bill is designed to build transparency into the process of creating police reports using AI without in any way impairing the ability of police agencies to use AI to enhance their work product.”
- 3) **Related Legislation.** SB 11 (Ashby), among other provisions, requires Judicial Council to review the impact of AI on the admissibility of proffered evidence in court proceedings and develop any necessary rules of court to assist courts in assessing claims that evidence has been generated by or manipulated by AI and determining whether such evidence is admissible. SB 11 is pending in this committee.

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