

LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM



SUPPORTS



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S.7599-C

Gonzalez

Passed

A.8295-D

Otis

Passed

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

This legislation amends the state technology law, in relation to automated decision making by government agencies.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

The use of AI has increased significantly at all levels of government. This technology is being used to help individuals access government services and programs, determine eligibility for various public benefits, process records and is being considered for various other purposes, including educational counseling and tutoring services. Such uses are often done without any oversight and without end user knowledge.

In February, the New York state technology law was amended to require automated decision-making systems that use AI to be subject to continued operational human review.

This was the first step in protecting the important role public employees play in the operation of state government from the possibility of allowing AI to act as the sole decision maker for vital government services and public aid utilized by millions of New Yorkers.

This legislation would expand these protections to include public K-12, SUNY, CUNY and Community College faculty and staff, as well as municipal employees across the state.

While the use of AI is pervasive in many facets of daily life, actual human decision making must take precedent over automation when it concerns important decisions made by public employees that could have life altering consequences for the public they serve.

FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REASONS, NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION.