STATE OF NEW YORK

9430

IN ASSEMBLY

March 14, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. OTIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

AN ACT to amend the state technology law, in relation to automated decision-making by state agencies

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "legislative oversight of automated decision-making in government act (LOADinG Act)".

§ 2. The state technology law is amended by adding a new article 4 to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV

AUTOMATED DECISION-MAKING IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Section 401. Definitions.

402. Use of automated decision-making systems by agencies.

403. Impact assessments.

§ 401. Definitions. For the purpose of this article:

1. "Automated decision-making system" shall mean any software that uses algorithms, computational models, or artificial intelligence techniques, or a combination thereof, to automate, support, or replace human decision-making and shall include, without limitation, systems that process data, and apply predefined rules or machine learning algorithms to analyze such data, and generate conclusions, recommendations, outcomes, assumptions, projections, or predictions without meaningful human review and discretion. "Automated decision-making system" shall not include any software used primarily for basic computerized processes, such as calculators, spellcheck tools, autocorrect functions, spreadsheets, electronic communications, or any tool that relates only to internal management affairs such as ordering office supplies or processing payments, and that do not materially affect the rights, liberties, benefits, safety or welfare of any individual within the state.

2. "State agency" shall mean any department, public authority, board, bureau, commission, division, office, council, committee or officer of the state. Such terms shall not include the legislature or judiciary.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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3. "Public assistance benefit" shall mean any service or program within the control of the state, or benefit provided by the state to individuals or households, including but not limited to public assistance, cash assistance, grants, child care assistance, housing assistance, unemployment benefits, transportation benefits, education assistance, domestic violence services, and any other assistance or benefit within the authority of the state to grant to individuals within the state. This shall not include any federal program that is administered by the federal government or the state.

§ 402. Use of automated decision-making systems by agencies. 1. Any state agency, or any entity acting on behalf of such agency, shall be prohibited from, directly or indirectly, utilizing or applying any automated decision-making system in performing any function that: (a) is related to the delivery of any public assistance benefit; (b) will have a material impact on the rights, civil liberties, safety or welfare of any individual within the state; or (c) affects any statutorily or constitutionally provided right of an individual; unless such utilization or application of the automated decision-making system is specifically authorized in law.

2. No state agency shall authorize any procurement, purchase or acquisition of any service or system utilizing, or relying on, automated decision-making systems prohibited in subdivision one of this section, except where the use of such system is specifically authorized in law.

§ 403. Impact assessments. 1. No state agency shall utilize or apply any automated decision-making system unless the state agency, or an entity acting on behalf of such state agency, shall have conducted an impact assessment for the application and use of such automated decision-making system. Following the first impact assessment, an impact assessment shall be conducted at least once every two years. An impact assessment shall be conducted prior to any material change to the automated decision-making system that may change the outcome or effect of such system. Such impact assessments shall include:

(a) a description of the objectives of the automated decision-making system;

(b) an evaluation of the ability of the automated decision-making system to achieve its stated objectives;

(c) a description and evaluation of the objectives and development of the automated decision-making including:

(i) a summary of the underlying algorithms, computational modes, and artificial intelligence tools that are used within the automated decision-making system; and

(ii) the design and training data used to develop the automated decision-making system process;

(d) testing for:

(i) accuracy, fairness, bias and discrimination, and an assessment of whether the use of the automated decision-making system produces discriminatory results on the basis of a consumer's or a class of consumers' actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, familial status, biometric information, lawful source of income, or disability and outlines mitigations for any identified performance differences in outcomes across relevant groups impacted by such use;

(ii) any cybersecurity vulnerabilities and privacy risks resulting from the deployment and use of the automated decision-making system, and the development or existence of safeguards to mitigate the risks;

(iii) any public health or safety risks resulting from the deployment and use of the automated decision-making system;

(iv) any reasonably foreseeable misuse of the automated decision-making system and the development or existence of safeguards against such misuse;

(e) the extent to which the deployment and use of the automated decision-making system requires input of sensitive and personal data, how that data is used and stored, and any control users may have over their data; and

(f) the notification mechanism or procedure, if any, by which individuals impacted by the utilization of the automated decision-making system may be notified of the use of such automated decision-making system and of the individual's personal data, and informed of their rights and options relating to such use.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this article or any other law, if an impact assessment finds that the automated decision-making system produces discriminatory or biased outcomes, the state agency shall cease any utilization, application, or function of such automated decision-making system, and of any information produced using such system.

3. Any impact assessment conducted pursuant to this subdivision shall be submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly at least thirty days prior to the implementation of the automated decision-making system that is the subject of such assessment. The impact statement of an automated decision-making system that is approved and utilized, shall be published on the website of the relevant agency. If the state agency makes a determination that the disclosure of any information required in the impact assessment would result in a substantial negative impact on health or safety of the public, infringe upon the privacy rights of individuals, or significantly impair the state agency's ability to protect its information technology or operational assets, it may redact such information, provided that an explanatory statement on the process by which the state agency made such determination is published along with the redacted impact assessment.

§ 3. Disclosure of existing automated decision-making systems. Any state agency, that directly or indirectly, utilizes an automated decision-making system, as defined in section 401 of the state technology law, shall submit to the legislature a disclosure on the use of such system, no later than one year after the effective date of this section. Such disclosure shall include:

(a) a description of the automated decision-making system utilized by such agency;

(b) a list of any software vendors related to such automated decision-making system;

(c) the date that the use of such system began;

(d) a summary of the purpose and use of such system, including a description of human decision-making and discretion supported or replaced by the automated decision-making system;

(e) whether any impact assessments for the automated decision-making system were conducted and the dates and summaries of the results of such assessments where applicable; and

(f) any other information deemed relevant by the agency.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that section two of this act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.