California SB-53: Transparency in Frontier Artificial Intelligence Act (TFAIA)

CA-SB-53 · US · binding regulation

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Summary

SB 53 (TFAIA), signed Sept. 29, 2025 (Chapter 138), is the first US state law expressly regulating 'frontier' AI; it succeeds the vetoed SB 1047 with a transparency-and-disclosure design rather than pre-deployment liability. It applies to 'frontier developers' training foundation models above a 10^26 FLOP compute threshold, with heightened duties on 'large frontier developers' (affiliate-group revenue > $500M): publish a frontier AI framework and pre-deployment transparency reports, report critical safety incidents to the Office of Emergency Services (15 days; 24 hours for imminent danger), and whistleblower protections. Core developer obligations took effect Jan. 1, 2026; CalOES annual reporting and the CalCompute consortium report are due Jan. 1, 2027. Enforced by the Attorney General with civil penalties up to $1,000,000 per violation.

At a glance

Adopted

2025-09-29

Effective

2026-01-01

Status

in force

Primary source

Cal. Stats. 2025, ch. 138 (SB 53); Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 22757.10–22757.16; Gov. Code § 11546.8; Lab. Code §§ 1107–1107.2

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OSCOLA

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