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MEMORANDUM

April 1, 2026

SUBJECT: Artificial persons and artificial intelligence
(HJR 31; Work Order No. 34-LS1226\A)

TO: Representative Zack Fields
Attn: Michael Notti

FROM: Alpheus Bullard 
Legislative Counsel

HJR 31 amends the state constitution to limit the rights of corporations and limited liability companies ("legal" or "artificial" persons) and to specifically prohibit most corporations from making contributions or expenditures to influence the outcome of a state and local election. Amendment 34-LS1226\A.2 (amendment), offered in the House Judiciary Committee,¹ would regulate "artificial intelligence systems."² You asked three questions relating to the measure.³

Without the amendment, would the provisions of HJR 31 be interpreted to apply to artificial intelligence?

HJR 31 amends the state constitution to provide that "the rights and privileges protected and extended to persons by this constitution are the rights and privileges of natural persons only."⁴ An artificial intelligence system is not a "natural person." HJR 31 would

¹ March 30, 2026.

² A portion of AS 34-LS1226\A.2 would add a new section to art. I of the Constitution of the State of Alaska that reads:

Section 27. Regulation of Artificial Intelligence. An artificial intelligence system, algorithm, robotic entity, or other technology that simulates human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity, or autonomy, whether intelligent or autonomous, may not be granted rights, standing, or privileges provided by law to natural or artificial persons. The legislature shall regulate artificial intelligence systems to protect the rights of natural persons.

³ I paraphrased your questions for clarity.

regulate artificial intelligence systems to the degree that it denies all entities other than natural persons, including artificial intelligence systems, those rights and privileges protected and extended to natural persons by the state constitution. HJR 31 does not address whether an artificial intelligence system could be granted status as a "legal person" under state statute. In comparison, the amendment prohibits granting an artificial intelligence system "rights, standing, or privileges provided *by law to natural or artificial persons.*"⁵

How are artificial intelligence systems currently regulated?

There is no single answer. Legal regulation of artificial intelligence systems is a complicated area of emerging law.⁶ But, as is relevant in the context of HJR 31, it is the natural or legal person who produces, markets, and uses artificial intelligence systems who must answer to the law based on the person's production, marketing, or use of the systems. To the best of my knowledge, no domestic or foreign jurisdiction has recognized

⁴ HJR 31 would add a new section to art. I of the Constitution of the State of Alaska that reads:

Section 26. Rights Belong to Natural People. The rights and privileges protected and extended to persons by this constitution are the rights and privileges of natural persons only. Subject to [another section in the resolution prohibiting most corporations from making contributions or expenditures to influence a state or local election], a corporation, limited liability company, or other artificial person may exercise only the powers or privileges prescribed by law.

The resolution contains conforming changes to existing art. I, sec. 1:

Inherent Rights. This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all **natural** persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all **natural** persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all **natural** persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State.

(Underlined language in bold is added).

⁵ This memo does not address whether an artificial intelligence system could be granted any rights or privileges provided a natural or artificial person under the Constitution of the State of Alaska, unamended by the HJR 31.

⁶ A report prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), dated June 4, 2025, *Regulating Artificial Intelligence: U.S. and International Approaches and Considerations for Congress*, summarizes state, national, and foreign regulatory efforts and describes the issues raised by the technology. <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48555>.

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an artificial intelligence system as a legal person. Current state efforts to regulate artificial intelligence systems relate to control of the systems, to responsibility and accountability for the systems, and to attendant privacy and safety issues.⁷

Does current law allow for artificial intelligence to be granted some form of legal personhood?

No. Law provides for natural and artificial persons. I am not aware of any artificial intelligence system that has been recognized as an autonomous entity capable of, or qualifying for, any legal form of "personhood."

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

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⁷ The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) maintains a database of all state legislation relating to artificial intelligence. <https://www.ncsl.org/financial-services/artificial-intelligence-legislation-database>.