Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Government Act of 2019
Section-by-Section

The AI in Government Act seeks to prioritize cohesion and competency for the federal government’s use of AI by increasing its expertise concerning emerging technologies and developing and advancing public-sector AI. Specifically, this bill would empower the General Services Administration (GSA) to advise the federal government in its use of AI; directs federal agencies to generate Governance Plans for AI Systems; and directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to identify skills and competencies for AI and establish a new or update an existing occupational job series.

Section 1 and 2. Short Title; Definitions
“AI in Government Act of 2019.”

Section 3. AI Center of Excellence
- Establishes an AI Center of Excellence (AI CoE) at GSA.
- Directs GSA to provide the AI CoE with necessary staff (temporary or term hires and fellows from academia, nonprofits, think tanks, and industry), resources, and administrative support to:
  - regularly convene government, industry, nonprofit, academic, and other experts to discuss recent developments in AI and initiatives at Federal agencies to adopt these technologies;
  - advise on federal government acquisition and use of AI;
  - assist agencies in applying the management and use of data for AI;
  - provide information on educational and workforce development opportunities related to AI;
  - study economic, policy, legal, and ethical challenges and implications of federal government use of AI including how privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights of individuals are or will be affected;
  - encourage joint initiatives with state or local governments, regional organizations, private businesses, academia, nonprofit organizations, and federal laboratories; and
  - assist agencies in developing and maintaining plans for the governance of AI systems.
- Encourages GSA to detail AI CoE staff to other Federal agencies to advise on the use of AI.
- Requires an annual report to Congress with a summary of activities and recommendations.

Section 4. Agency Governance Plans for AI Systems
- Requires OMB to issue a memorandum to heads of Executive branch agencies that will:
  - inform the development of AI governance approaches;
  - advance innovative uses and reduce barriers to AI for the benefit of the public while upholding civil liberties, privacy, and civil rights;
  - establish best practices for identifying, assessing, and mitigating bias or negative unintended consequence of the use of artificial intelligence; and
  - provide a template of the required contents of the agency Governance Plans.
- Requires agencies to review applications of AI at the agency, identify high-priority applications of AI, and submit Governance plans to OMB and GSA.
- Requires the agency Governance Plans be published publically, updated annually, and the process solicits feedback via public hearings and online submissions.

Section 5. Advisory Board
- In order to advise the activities of the AI CoE, establishes an advisory board made up of designees from: A) OMB (Chair), Office of Science and Technology Policy, Department of Commerce; B) six agencies to be determined by the Chair every six months; and C) industry (4), academia (2), and public-interest groups (2).
- Requires the publishing of a list of areas in which the federal government could improve technical or policy expertise within the AI CoE’s focus areas.

Section 6. Establishment of Occupational Series for Artificial Intelligence
- Directs OPM to identify skills and competencies for AI and establish a new or update an existing occupational job series.

Section 7. Sunset
- Terminates the AI CoE and advisory board after five years of this legislation’s enactment.