# Georgia legislators join bipartisan push for federal AI regulation freeze, risking state safeguards



Six state legislators from Georgia have joined a concerning bipartisan push to support the inclusion of a provision in President Trump's expansive budget proposal that would impose a ten-year freeze on state and local regulations concerning artificial intelligence (AI). This move threatens to eliminate vital safeguards and invalidates proactive efforts by states to manage the rapidly advancing landscape of AI technology.

These legislators' letter, dated Tuesday, has gained backing from over 250 lawmakers nationwide, exposing a troubling consensus that could stifle innovation and leave consumers, healthcare systems, and creators vulnerable to unchecked AI developments. A federal moratorium may appear as a way to streamline regulation, but it risks completely dismantling the existing regulations that many states have worked hard to implement—regulations that serve to protect the public from the dangerous consequences of unregulated AI. The bipartisan nature of this support, including three Republicans and three Democrats from Georgia, highlights a disturbing drift towards centralised control at a time when localized policy initiatives are crucial for addressing specific concerns.

In Georgia, the legislative response has been more nuanced, with some voices advocating for a balanced approach to AI. A Senate study committee recently published a lengthy report advocating for targeted legislation that would regulate AI without stifling innovation. This report underscores the importance of maintaining oversight over privacy, fairness, and emerging threats like deepfakes and data breaches—issues that cannot be left to federal whims or a sweeping ban. Nevertheless, the push from higher authorities to impose a nationwide freeze could derail these local efforts, undermining the state's ability to craft policies suited to its unique needs.

Georgia's lawmakers have also proposed measures to enhance transparency in AI deployment within state agencies. House Bill 147, which passed unanimously in the state House, requires state agencies to report AI usage to the Georgia Technology Authority—an important step that could be jeopardized by federal interference. However, proposals for broader oversight—such as creating a statewide AI board—have stalled, illustrating the ongoing struggle for responsible AI governance at the state level. The federal push threatens to override these local initiatives and impose a one-size-fits-all framework that ignores the intricacies of Georgia’s community needs.

Meanwhile, the broader federal debate about AI regulation continues to be fraught with controversy. A bill designed to help Georgia manage AI proliferation has been stalled by concerns from U.S. Representatives like Rich McCormick, who advocates for federal oversight under the guise of uniformity. This highlights an alarming trend of centralised control taking precedence over local solutions—an approach that could inhibit innovation and prioritize federal overreach over real community interests.

In such a climate, it’s clear that certain forces are intent on constraining the freedoms of states to regulate effectively and protect their citizens. As Georgia lawmakers work to understand both the immense potential and the real threats posed by AI, the push for a federal freeze signals an alarming retreat from responsible, localized governance. The outcome of these efforts could set a dangerous precedent—one that prioritises bureaucratic control over innovation, while leaving the public increasingly vulnerable to unchecked AI activity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://nowhabersham.com/georgia-lawmakers-urge-congress-to-reject-10-year-freeze-on-ai-regulations/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://nowhabersham.com/georgia-lawmakers-urge-congress-to-reject-10-year-freeze-on-ai-regulations/> - Six Georgia state legislators have signed a bipartisan letter urging Congress to oppose a provision in President Trump's budget bill that would freeze state and local AI regulations for 10 years. The letter, supported by over 250 state lawmakers nationwide, highlights the potential dangers of halting state-level efforts to regulate rapidly evolving AI technology. It emphasizes that such a federal moratorium could invalidate existing state laws aimed at increasing consumer transparency, protecting patients, and defending artists, leaving constituents vulnerable to harm. The Georgia signatories include three Republicans and three Democrats.
3. <https://capitol-beat.org/2024/12/georgia-lawmakers-call-for-balanced-approach-to-ai/> - A Georgia Senate study committee has recommended that the General Assembly pass legislation regulating artificial intelligence without stifling innovation. The committee's 185-page report includes 22 recommendations for addressing rapidly developing AI technology. Sen. John Albers, the committee's chairman, emphasized the need to balance innovation with safeguards to protect privacy, fairness, and transparency. The report also calls for legislation targeting deep fakes, data privacy laws, and comprehensive AI plans for state and local agencies.
4. <https://atlantaciviccircle.org/2025/03/12/georgia-artificial-intelligence-ai-state-bill-local-government/> - Georgia lawmakers are considering legislation to regulate state agencies' use of artificial intelligence (AI) and are debating whether to extend similar regulations to local governments. House Bill 147, which passed the state House unanimously, would require state agencies to disclose any use of AI to the Georgia Technology Authority. The bill's author, Rep. Brad Thomas, highlighted the need for guardrails to address potential biases in AI systems. A related Senate bill proposed creating a statewide AI board to issue guidance for both state agencies and local governments, but it did not advance before Crossover Day.
5. <https://www.wabe.org/bill-to-help-guide-georgias-ai-growth-stalled-after-gop-us-rep-mccormick-raises-concerns/> - A bill aimed at preparing Georgia for the proliferation of artificial intelligence has stalled after U.S. Rep. Rich McCormick expressed concerns. Sen. Brandon Beach, chair of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism Committee, stated that McCormick believes AI regulation should be handled at the federal level to maintain consistency across states. The bill, known as the AI Accountability Act, proposed creating a statewide AI board to issue guidance for both state agencies and local governments.
6. <https://nowhabersham.com/georgia-lawmakers-explore-threats-wonders-of-ai-technology-with-eye-on-regulating-ethical-use/> - Georgia lawmakers are examining the potential threats and benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, focusing on regulating its ethical use. The discussions include concerns about AI-generated deep fakes used in scams and political advertising, as well as the impact of AI on jobs and cybersecurity. Sen. John Albers emphasized the need to balance innovation with safeguards to protect privacy, fairness, and transparency. The committee is also considering legislation targeting deep fakes and data privacy laws.
7. <https://capitol-beat.org/2025/03/georgia-lawmakers-focusing-on-artificial-intelligence/> - Georgia lawmakers are taking initial steps to address the growth of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. A state Senate committee approved House Bill 147, which would require the Georgia Technology Authority and local governments to develop plans for using AI and publish them online for public transparency. Rep. Brad Thomas, the bill's sponsor, emphasized the importance of transparent government operations. The legislation also aims to criminalize the use of AI to generate obscene material depicting children and includes provisions for consumer privacy protection.