

# Legislator's Aide Brief

## Model AI Legislation Framework (Quick Orientation)

### A practical overview and “how to use” guide for legislative staff

#### Purpose:

This brief is intended for legislative aides, counsel, and committee staff reviewing the *Model AI Legislation Framework* and its supporting materials. It provides a concise explanation of what the framework does, how it is structured, and how it may be used during legislative development.

---

## The Framework

This framework provides a **risk-based approach** for governing artificial intelligence systems that interact directly with people and may influence judgment, behavior, or emotional wellbeing.

It is designed to:

- Prevent avoidable harm
- Preserve innovation and flexibility
- Avoid technology lock-in
- Avoid surveillance or content regulation
- Provide clear accountability when harm occurs

It does **not** regulate ideas, speech, research, or internal model design.

---

## Why It Exists

Conversational and human-interactive AI systems have already caused documented harm due to the absence of basic safety infrastructure. Unlike other safety-critical technologies, these systems were deployed without standardized risk analysis, documentation, or independent review.

This framework applies **existing safety principles**—used in aviation, medicine, and engineering—to AI systems that affect people directly.

---

## How the Framework Is Structured

The framework is organized into **three tiers**, each serving a distinct role:

## Executive Summary

Explains *why* safety oversight is necessary and why conversational AI is the starting point. Establishes scope and intent.

## Tier 1 – Foundational Framework

Defines *what must be addressed* in law:

- Risk-based assessment
- Documentation
- Oversight
- Accountability

This tier is the **governing layer**.

## Tier 2 – Technical Basis

Explains *how risk assessment works* in practice using established engineering methods.

This tier is **informative, not binding**.

## Tier 3 – Adoption & Implementation Guidance

Explains *how legislatures and agencies may implement Tier 1* without overreach or rigidity.

This tier provides **direction, not mandates**.

---

## Imperative vs. Flexible

**Conditions Required for Effectiveness (once adopted):**

*Without these conditions, safety oversight becomes ineffective and largely symbolic.*

- Covered systems require risk-based assessment
- Failure modes are identified and documented
- Proportional mitigation is initialized
- Documentation is made available for review

**Flexible:**

- Which technical methodology is used
  - Which standards body is referenced
  - How agencies structure review and certification
  - Timing and rollout during transition periods
-

## Role of Certification

Certification serves as the principal compliance mechanism under the framework.

It:

- Demonstrates good-faith risk management
- Supports market access and procurement
- Informs liability and enforcement decisions
- Does not approve content or ideas

Government does not run certification; it **recognizes acceptable certification processes**.

---

## What This Framework Avoids

- No new centralized AI authority
  - No monitoring of private conversations
  - No access to training data or model internals
  - No content moderation mandates
  - No single required tool or vendor
- 

## Key Takeaway for Aides

This framework gives legislators a way to:

- Require responsibility without micromanagement
  - Protect the public without slowing innovation
  - Establish accountability without surveillance
  - Rely on documentation instead of trust alone
- 

## How to Use This Framework

### For Legislators, Staff, and Reviewers

This insert explains **how to work with the Model AI Legislation Framework** during drafting, review, and implementation.

## Step 1: Start with Tier 1

Tier 1 is the governing document.

Use it to:

- Define which AI systems are covered
- Establish mandatory risk assessment and documentation
- Set enforcement principles and safe-harbor protections

Tier 1 language may be incorporated directly, adapted, or referenced by statute.

---

## Step 2: Reference Tier 2 for Technical Understanding

Tier 2 is a **technical companion**, not statutory text.

Use it to:

- Understand what “risk-based assessment” means
- Evaluate whether proposed compliance methods are credible
- Brief members or leadership on technical feasibility

Do **not** embed Tier 2 language directly into statute.

---

## Step 3: Use Tier 3 to Shape Implementation

Tier 3 explains:

- How agencies may operationalize Tier 1
- How certification can be recognized
- How oversight can occur without surveillance
- How innovation remains protected

Tier 3 helps avoid:

- over-specification
  - technology lock-in
  - unintended enforcement consequences
-

## Step 4: Understand the Role of AI-FMEA

AI-FMEA is:

- An example of an accepted risk-assessment method
- A structured way to identify and prioritize failure modes
- Not mandatory and not exclusive

AI-FMEA may be referenced as:

- Illustrative guidance
  - Evidence of good-faith compliance
  - A model for equivalent approaches
- 

## Step 5: During Review or Hearings

When evaluating proposals or testimony, ask:

- Does this system interact directly with people?
- Could it influence judgment, behavior, or emotional state?
- Has a structured risk assessment been performed?
- Is documentation available?
- Were foreseeable harms addressed?

These questions align directly with Tier 1 obligations.

---

## Step 6: During Enforcement or Incident Review

Use documentation to determine:

- Whether risks were foreseeable
- Whether they were identified
- Whether reasonable mitigation was attempted

The framework supports **proportional accountability**, not automatic punishment.

---

# Key Principle to Remember

**“This framework regulates risk management, not technology itself.”**

It is designed to evolve with AI, protect the public, and preserve innovation—without requiring lawmakers to become technical experts.

Version 1.2 – December 2025

**© 2025 AI Safety International.**

This document may be freely shared, referenced, and adapted for educational, policy, and legislative purposes, provided proper attribution is maintained. No endorsement is implied.