ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2024 Interim

October 8, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call
The fourth meeting of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force was held on October 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Josh Bray, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:
Members: Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe Co-Chair; Representative Josh Bray Co-Chair; Senators Stephen Meredith, Reginald Thomas, and Gex Williams; Representatives John Blanton, Derek Lewis, Suzanne Miles, and Pamela Stevenson.

Guests: Michael Adams, Secretary of State, and Jennifer Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State, Office of the Kentucky Secretary of State; Jason Siwula, Deputy State Highway Engineer, and Drew Clark, KYTC System Architect and AI Lead, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet; and Dr. Roman Yampolskiy, Artificial Intelligence Safety Researcher.

LRC Staff: Daniel Carter, Alaina Spence, and Angela Rhodes.

Approval of Minutes
Representative Blanton moved that the minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting be approved. Representative Lewis seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Elections
Michael Adams, Secretary of State, discussed the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on elections. AI has the potential for significant impact on elections and is a tool that can be used for good or bad. Advances in desktop publishing, video capturing, and uploading in social media have changed politics over the past two decades. These changes have helped Americans of all political stripes engage in political activity, but have also stoked divisions and proliferated false information.

Secretary Adams thanked the General Assembly for the AI anti-deep fake bill and encouraged them to consider a future bill prohibiting the impersonation of election officials. He also advocated for mandatory civic education in all Kentucky school districts

to train the youngest Kentuckians in the needed skills of citizenship, self-government, and information literacy.

In response to questions from Senator Mays Bledsoe, Secretary Adams stated he believes regulating the impersonation of public officials, especially when it includes a disclaimer requirement, would easily pass constitutional muster. In response to a follow-up question, he stated courts treat speech differently closer to election time and laws regulating speech close to an election may have a better chance of being upheld. Jennifer Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State, Office of the Kentucky Secretary of State, added this could be similar to when communities prohibit election signage outside a certain time frame.

In response to questions from Senator Williams, Secretary Adams stated that AI is a tool and he does not believe any person should impersonate an election official, through use of AI or any other means, to put out false information.

Senator Thomas commented that he would like Secretary Adams to think about considering ways for student voters to be placed on local boards of education in addition to his proposal of civic education in Kentucky school districts.

Artificial Intelligence in Transportation
Jason Siwula, Deputy State Highway Engineer, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), provided an overview of autonomous vehicles in the Commonwealth. KYTC is committed to embracing new technologies to provide a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound and fiscally responsible transportation system. He highlighted KYTC is participating in regional and national initiatives to best prepare staff, partners, and the state's highways and bridges for the safe and secure implementation of automated vehicles. Some examples include wider pavement markings, signage, crosswalk markings, along with the communication of data.

In response to a question from Senator Williams, Mr. Siwula stated that pavement markings are critically important for all roadway entities.

Representative Blanton shared his concerns with drugs being smuggled in autonomous vehicles. In response, Mr. Siwula stated there are no answers on the implementation timeline for seeing fully automated vehicles on roadways. In response to a follow-up question, Mr. Siwula stated there are lots of factors that go into the implementation of autonomous vehicles and did not have a specific answer as to their potential impact on the workforce.

In response to questions from Senator Meredith, Mr. Siwula believes that there are a lot of potential opportunities for data collection.

In response to a question from Senator Thomas, Mr. Siwula stated he cannot answer how an autonomous vehicle will refuel or pay taxes. Senator Thomas requested that Mr. Siwula follow-up with an answer to the co-chairs by year end.

In response to a question from Senator Williams, Mr. Siwula stated that signage requirements for things such as construction, are continuing to be implemented proactively.

Drew Clark, KYTC System Architect and AI Lead, KYTC, discussed the utilization of AI by KYTC. KYTC uses AI for a citizen facing chatbot for the Department of Vehicle Regulations that allows citizens to ask driver's licensing, vehicle licensing, and commercial carrier credential questions. KYTC is working on deploying a GenAI version of the chatbot that uses the drive.ky website as a knowledge base to answer questions for customers. The Office of Public Affairs is using machine learning that can identify images and video content to tag and be easily found later. Also, there are vehicles equipped with downward facing LiDAR cameras that capture detailed images of the roadway. KYTC plans to use AI to analyze those images as a secondary source to quickly identify and grade defects. Their goal is not to replace the existing workforce with AI, but to equip them with better tools to automate mundane tasks.

KYTC established an AI committee in late 2023, which included creating a committee charter and GenAI guidelines. The committee collaborates closely with the Commonwealth Office of Technology to ensure agency strategic goals are aligned. As AI technology evolves, KYTC are also updating agency guidelines and recommendations.

In response to a question from Senator Williams, Mr. Clark stated his testimony was written by himself and not generated through AI.

In response to questions from Senator Mays Bledsoe, Mr. Clark stated he can provide more information at a later date regarding the captured images of roadways, but that machine learning, once trained, has a great ability to discern differences quicker than a human.

Senator Thomas commented that he would like for KYTC to use the allotted funds to collect data in a way that is beneficial and safer for all Kentuckians.

Future with Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Roman Yampolskiy, an independent AI safety researcher, has been doing work on AI safety and security for over a decade. Dr. Yampolskiy stated we are just a few years away from AI performing as well as a human on most tasks but there is not a lot of progress in predicting what the systems will do.

Dr. Yampolskiy advises the General Assembly to legislate advanced systems. California passed a law that concentrated on safe and secure innovation for Frontier AI models that was highly supported by legislators and citizens, but was vetoed mostly due to commercial pressures. He stated Kentucky could become a leader in AI safety with similar legislation.

In general, Dr. Yampolskiy believes AI can be used for specific problems, such as improving energy consumption and solving scientific problems, without creating a general super intelligence system that would compete with humans.

In response to a question from Senator Thomas, Dr. Yampolskiy stated the development of a general system where AI can do all jobs automatically, better, and cheaper could result in the loss of human jobs.

In response to a question from Representative Lewis, Dr. Yampolskiy's advice to regulating AI would include deep fakes, privacy, bias, and the risks of advanced AI. He strongly advocates for strong limits on super intelligence.

In response to a question from Senator Mays Bledsoe, Dr. Yampolskiy's research has shown there are strong limits to what can be done with advanced AI in terms of understanding how it works, predicting what it is going to do, verifying its future decisions, and keeping it in a state of safety and not self-improving, modifying, or learning new capabilities. Dr. Yampolskiy believes it is not possible to indefinitely control those advance AI systems and advises to not permit development of those systems unless there is scientific consensus that safety issues have been solved.

In response to a question from Senator Williams, Dr. Yampolskiy stated he is concerned with transparency in AI. Open AI was founded as a nonprofit to benefit all humanity with advanced technology, but is now shifting towards a closed AI that is for the benefit of people who invest billions in the technology with no government supervision.

In response to questions from Representative Bray, Dr. Yampolskiy stated he is less knowledgeable on energy policies, but there needs to be new sources and grids created to support the increase in demand. There is no infrastructure capable of supporting the amount of energy being transferred. In response to another question, Dr. Yampolskiy

stated he believes general AI (AGI) already exists, however, leaders of these labs are saying two to three years, whereas, prediction markets are saying three to four years.

In response to a question from Senator Williams, Dr. Yampolskiy stated he believes that AI research has advanced human intelligence with the understanding of how collections of neurons represent information and make decisions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.