

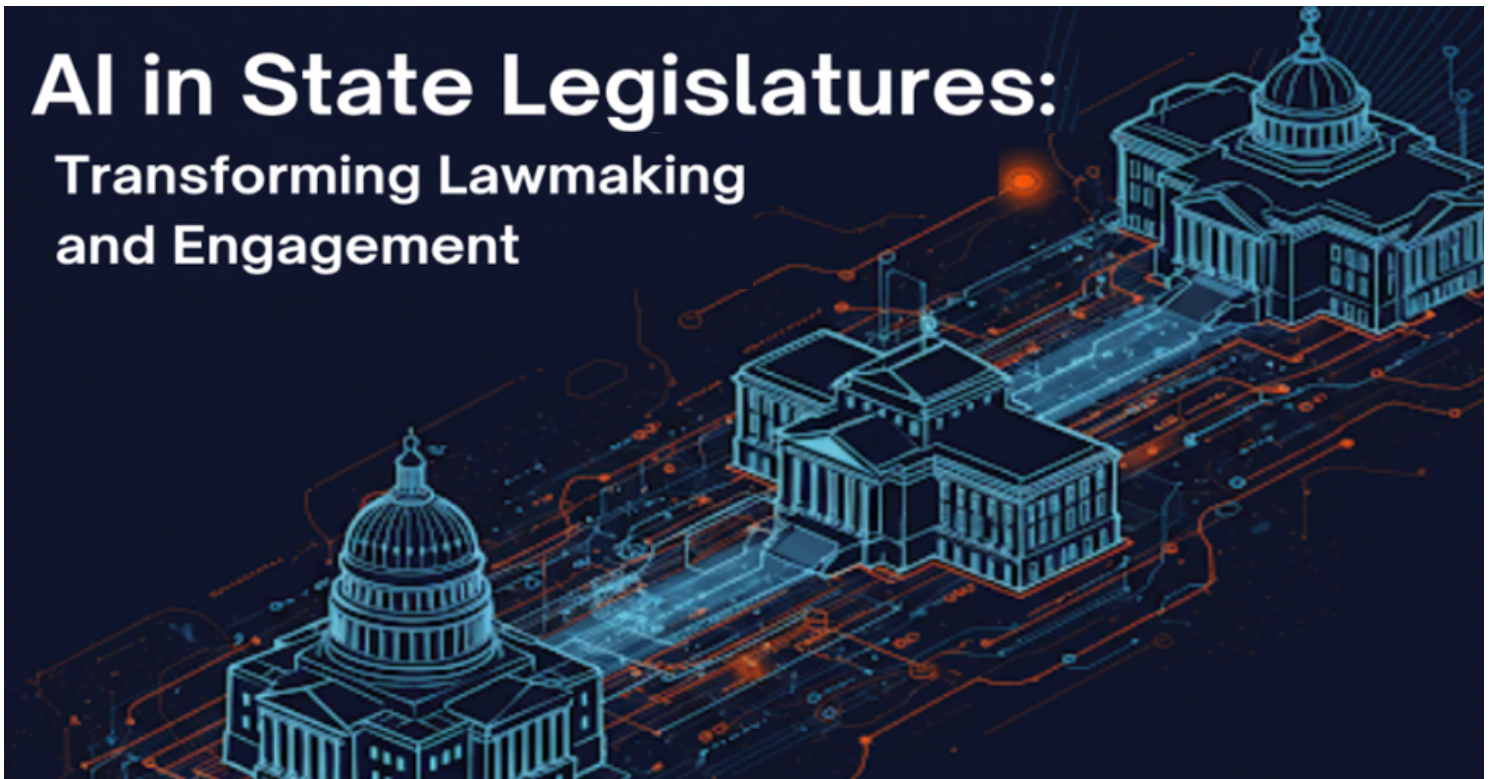
International Roll-Call®



☎ 804-730-9600
🌐 www.roll-call.com
📍 Richmond, VA



AI in State Legislatures: Transforming Lawmaking and Engagement



State legislatures across the nation are embracing artificial intelligence to revolutionize their operations, creating unprecedented opportunities for efficiency and innovation. From automated bill drafting to enhanced constituent engagement, AI is reshaping how lawmakers serve their communities. This document outlines the current landscape, emerging applications, implementation challenges, and how International Roll-Call® Corporation (IRC) can support your organization in navigating this technological transformation.

CURRENT AI ADOPTION IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES

State legislatures are beginning to experiment with AI to boost efficiency, from back-office administration to policy research. A recent NCSL survey found that staff in 12 states are already using generative AI tools in their legislative work. Popular platforms include OpenAI's ChatGPT, Microsoft's Copilot, and specialized transcription services like Sonix. These tools are being deployed across a spectrum of functions, including:

- Document creation and email drafting
- Committee hearing transcription
- Data analysis and spreadsheet management
- Bill text editing and comparison
- Policy research and background summarization
- Cybersecurity monitoring

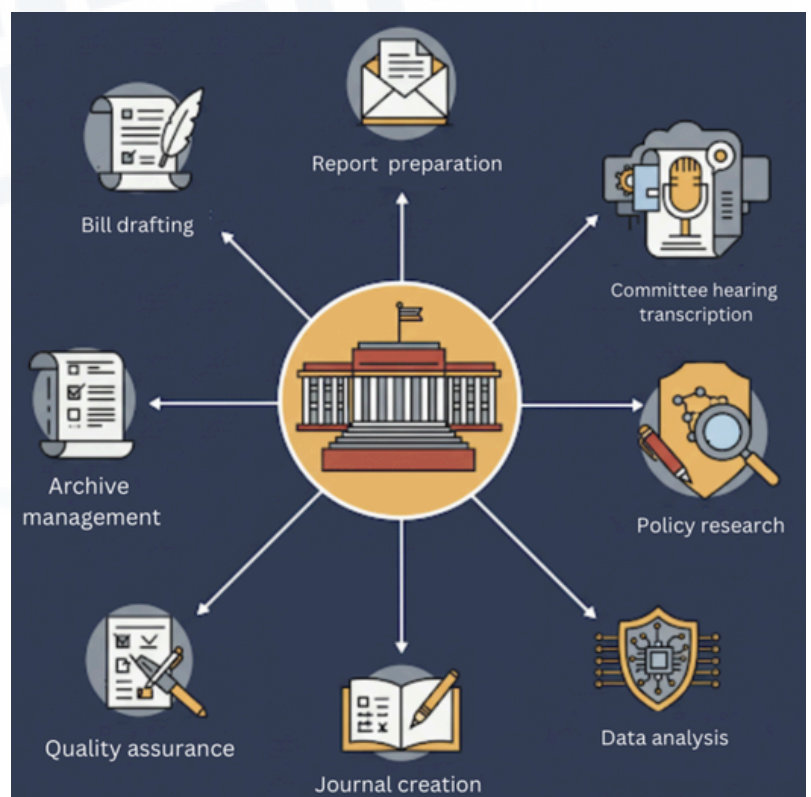
State legislatures, as key components of representative governance, are adopting AI tools that improve efficiency, transparency, and decision-making. Weighing the advantages and disadvantages of strengthening AI's role in the legislative process requires legislatures to work to understand current applications, set clear usage guidelines, and regulate future implementations. For example, the United States Senate recently authorized staff to experiment with approved AI services, such as ChatGPT and Bard, under strict guidelines, emphasizing that human judgment remains essential.

STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS TRANSFORMING LEGISLATIVE WORK

Real-world use cases of AI in legislatures are emerging across the country. Here are a few key areas where AI-driven innovation is already making a difference:

AI-Assisted Bill Drafting & Analysis

Legislative staff often face tight deadlines to research complex policy issues and draft bills. AI-powered tools, like natural language processing (NLP) systems, can assist by scanning vast amounts of legal documents, case law, and policy analyses to generate preliminary bill drafts or synthesize research findings. Lawmakers in Massachusetts, for instance, prompted ChatGPT to help write a data privacy bill in early 2023. In Alaska, a state representative used Microsoft's AI-powered Copilot to draft a bill legalizing gambling on state ferries.



These experiments show how AI can speed up the creation of first drafts and inspire new ideas. A legislator with a concept can get a rough bill outline from an AI assistant prepared in minutes prior to having staff and lawyers refine it. The potential benefits are clear: faster turnaround, more time for debating substance over syntax, and even the ability to simulate how a law might be written before committing pen to paper.

However, AI drafting is not without pitfalls. Early trials have revealed that an AI-generated bill may look polished but contain legal flaws or unintended policy effects. In one case, a New York lawmaker discovered the text produced by AI didn't achieve the intended policy outcome. Legislative counsel offices report that while they're seeing more bill drafts submitted by lawmakers using AI, those drafts often require the same level of careful review and rewriting as any other.

Accelerating Policy Research & Analysis

Legislative staffers and analysts often must digest massive amounts of information – lengthy bills, fiscal reports, legal precedents, and more – under tight deadlines. To assist in this process, AI can analyze large datasets to identify trends, model potential policy outcomes, and provide evidence-based recommendations. This capability enables lawmakers to make informed decisions on all policy issues presented for consideration with enhanced efficiency and timeliness. For instance, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in D.C. has begun experimenting with AI to automatically summarize bills, hoping to chip away at their backlog of bill summaries. They found that while current AI summaries still need close quality checks, the technology is improving quickly. The idea is to let AI produce a first-cut summary so human experts can spend more time on in-depth analysis and less on rote description. Beyond summaries, AI can support data-driven policy analysis. Tools are emerging that can analyze budgets, economic data, or program outcomes and present key findings in plain language. For example, some legislative fiscal offices are using AI to model the impacts of tax or healthcare proposals, giving lawmakers quick feedback on potential outcomes.

Automating Administrative Tasks

Another benefit of AI tools being applied to legislative processes is in administrative tasks, such as scheduling hearings, processing public comments, and managing legislative records. Some legislative entities, such as the Illinois Senate, report using AI to transcribe committee hearings and floor debates for the record. The Illinois Senate utilized AI technology automates speech recognition with an adaptive vocabulary, ensures efficient post processing and editing, and even distinguishes between different speakers. This not only saves time but also improves transparency by making proceedings available faster to the public.

AI can also assist with internal workflow. For instance, some IT and HR offices use generative AI to draft job postings or edit training manuals. Budget offices might use it to check spreadsheets for errors or suggest formula corrections. These small enhancements add up to significant time savings over a legislative session.

BALANCING INNOVATION WITH CAUTION

The introduction of AI into lawmaking raises important questions of accuracy, privacy, and ethics. Legislatures are developing verification protocols to ensure AI-generated content maintains the accuracy and impartiality essential for lawmaking. Many states have established formal review procedures requiring human validation of all AI-produced material.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) reports and recent survey, legislative staff across the country overwhelmingly agree on the need to verify AI-generated output rather than taking it at face value. In practical terms, this means review procedures and training are being put in place. Research reveals that some legislatures have temporarily restricted AI tools on work devices until formal policies are crafted. Others have issued guidance that AI should be used for research and drafting assistance only, and not for any final content without human approval.

In addition, there is an emergence of oversight bodies to keep AI adoption on a responsible track. For example, in 2023, multiple states created advisory committees or task forces on AI in government. These groups are responsible for monitoring how state agencies and legislative staff use AI and developing codes of ethics for its use. For example, Louisiana's legislature directed a joint committee to study AI's impact on government operations and policy. Texas went a step further, establishing an AI advisory council to guide state agency usage and recommend ethical standards. These proactive steps ensure that as AI tools spread in government and that they do so under clear rules that uphold transparency, fairness, and security.

LEADING THE WAY WITH IRC'S EXPERTISE

As state legislatures navigate an AI-powered future, having the right partner is crucial. International Roll-Call® (IRC) has a long-standing track record of supporting legislative bodies with innovative voting system software, hardware, and legislative management solutions. With decades of experience in legislative process modernization, IRC understands the unique workflow, security, and compliance needs of legislative institutions. While AI presents exciting possibilities, IRC takes a measured and responsible approach to its integration. We are actively researching and exploring ways AI can enhance legislative processes while ensuring that any implementation aligns with the needs of legislative staff and maintains human oversight.

The IRC 3rd Reading platform is being evaluated for opportunities to incorporate AI-driven enhancements, such as:

- Smart Bill Drafting Assistance – Suggesting language based on state statutes and past legislation, while keeping final control in the hands of legislative staff.

- Automated Summarization – Reducing the time spent summarizing amendments and tracking changes across bill versions for consumption by members and processing by staff.
- Journal Indexing Generation – Leveraging AI through a chatbot to automate and streamline the generation of comprehensive, cross-referenced indexes of legislative actions, amendments, and outcomes, significantly enhancing efficiency and accuracy for the Journal Clerk.

At IRC, we believe that innovation should serve people, not replace them. Our human-centric approach ensures that technology, including AI, is introduced thoughtfully and collaboratively. By working closely with legislative users, we act as an extension of your team – helping you adapt to the future while staying grounded in the needs of the present.

For more information on how IRC can support your legislative technology initiatives, please contact us at info@roll-call.com.

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