

AI Task Force - Notes from the Unofficial Meeting
1 National Life Drive, The Montpelier Room, Basement
April 26, 2018, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Brian Bresland, Jill Charboneau, Brian Cina, John Dooley, Joe Segale,

Members via Phone:

John Cohn, Mark Comb

Staff Present:

Kayla Dewey

12:15 Meeting Starts

Discussion of the planned Public Hearing -

Advertisement - SevenDays, Press Release, Generator's List, Weekly Papers, The Other paper, members send out on their channels, Facebook group

Time structure of the event -

May 30, 5:30-8:30

5 minute welcome/introduction - statement about our work

5 minutes housekeeping - explaining the format, rules, process

First speak out, public testimony - 1:30-2:00 hours of time

People would sign up for a spot and will be heard in order of the list

3 minutes each - uninterrupted testimony and no response

Written testimony accepted

Remaining time -

Discussion, question, interactive portion - call on individuals to follow up

Group discussion if it's a small group

Not a free for all

Follow up -

There will be a sign up sheet and a line for contact information

Leadership -

We need to choose a facilitator for the event

Additional Public Hearings around the state -

Kayla to contact venues in -
Northeast Kingdom
Rutland
Brattleboro, suggestions Hatchspace
White River Junction
South Burlington

Asking task force members to attend at least two of the meetings.

1:30 Break

1:30 Review the Summary Act 137

Definition of “Artificial Intelligence” - it is hard to define

Maybe the task force should reference definitions from other organizations who have done the work to define “AI.” Perhaps THE definition is impossible, but the task force can just discuss which definition is being used for its purposes. Example: “Any machine that learns on its own. There is no global definition, but for our work, we are using this definition”

Other ideas: 1.) The system learns on it’s own and applies it to a decision, 2.) Learning +decision making, 3.) Learning and acting based on what it learns.

This could be a qualitative definition and used along with Milo’s technical definitions.

We will come back to this question later

What are the benefits of AI?

- Taxonomy of places where this could help and places where it could hurt. Ex: where you need better than human perception/memory/wakefulness.
- There is probably resources available from other organizations that puts this well. Borrow a taxonomy from another organization.
- Example: Ag - precision agriculture maximizes effectiveness, minimizes impact of farm chemicals. Reduced labor from automation, maximizing output on milk production
- Doing things that are dangerous for humans to do. Use examples that are real world.

Suggestion: maybe a subcommittee should go through testimony to identify all of the benefits and risks.

Conclusion: Joe Segale as an individual will go through everything. Kayla will send Meeting Minutes and written testimonies

Is any State regulation needed at this time?

- Has any other government in the world created regulation on AI?
- There is a code of ethics in the E.U.

- A report was sent about regulation of AI, but there are no laws limiting AI, there is regulation on privacy and autonomous vehicles.
- Opinion: the airline industry has run amok. They need regulation. Boeing is having problems with it's planes. We need parameters around AI testing and they needed to do more testing with their planes. We need guidelines.
- Response: That was not an AI issue - it was a software issue. Automation has made airflight so much safer. It was a testing problem, not an AI problem.
- We need to frame what we mean by AI. We need to help the public understand what we mean by AI. We need to have better software testing.
- It was less of a technology issue and more of a transparency issue. They didn't share information with the pilots, so they didn't know how to manage it.
- Transparency and testing. People should know how it was tested

Summary:. It could be simple, but as you hear more about it, it is not simple. Should there be regulations? It's tricky because some think that there should and some do not. We could instead give examples about where there are regulation and where there is not regulation. No witness identified a need for a law or regulation, just more awareness.

- A lack of regulation is a policy itself. No regulation means we leave it up to whoever is developing the technology (people or corporations.)
- Policy should be on outcome. Example: labeling law.
- It's about principals, which is outcomes. Accountability, transparency, safety. Which principals manage these risks.
- Question of bias. Does bias have to do with outcome?
- If an algorithm is used in a critical situation, like getting a loan. It has to be inspectable. Testing has to be transparent.
- The outcome is fairness.

What about an analysis of fiscal impact on the state if any?

- Stephanie Seguino discussed the impact on the economy.
- Congress needs to raise the minimum wage and enact paid family leave. This is beyond our expertise.
- As AI changes the job market. It may change what it means to be employed and it may impact the tax revenue of the state. Here are some questions that will be raised. How will the job markets be affected?
- Taxing robots.
- What if one task force member took the time to go through testimony with the lens of this question?
- Preemptive action on the federal level is needed. There may not be enough testimony/content to make this kind of recommendation.

- The answer may be that we do not have enough information, but that could be expressed in the report.
- Recommend that more information is needed.
- Brian C. will do this piece of the project.

What recommendations, does the task force have on the responsible growth of AI markets?

- We might say in light of the fact that this is an emerging field there should be minimal government interference, etc.
- Stephanie Seguino said that corporations will only benefit.
- Brian C. has spoken with people who are benefitting from AI
- A concern is balancing small local businesses with corporations growth
- The group will reflect on the meaning of this statement and come back to it and also the public comments will help.
- Do we need a commission or standing body, or anything? Oversight needed? Having an AI savvy person or CTO?
- The State is already doing some work to assign a CTO - we don't have one. We could tag on to that legislation.
- Public education is the most important thing. The public needs to be made more aware and AI needs to be demystified. We need an aware populous.
- We make choices but a lot of unwitting. People have an insufficient level of information.
- We need to do more about workforce development. We need to train people already in school and we need to train workers for jobs.

Summary - The task force recommends developing a commitment to public education and engagement and hiring an ongoing CTO or body in the government.

- We should compare ourselves to what other states are doing. If other states have a CTO, we should have a CTO.
- We should have a CTO in the administration that has powers and duties. It is hard for one person to do this on their own, so there may be space for an advisory council.
- There is need for more work. The structure of the task force is hard. We need someone steering the ship in an ongoing and institutionalized.

Q - Do we want to suggest what the duties are of the CTO?

A - Keep it less prescriptive. The Legislature will take more testimony before acting. We shouldn't say what we think they should do. The suggestion was not making a final recommendation, just putting out an option.

Q - Will they want an economic benefit to suggesting the state hire someone?

A - They will bring in witnesses and the JFO will do that analysis.

- If we recommend continued study we should also say why. To sell the ideas.
- Next meeting - we should have some time to review the lists and talk about next steps (or not.)
Main components of the report.

DISCUSSION

Q - How will we write the report?

A - It will be outlined next meeting and we can go from there.

Q - We need to look at the impact on the workforce and the timing of retail automation.

A - This area is massive and we won't be able to do this proper justice. We can make a recommendation for studies in particular areas in the report.

- We need to present more information about the workforce.

Next meeting's agenda

- process the homework
- Discuss the public hearing
- make plans for next steps.

2:47 adjourn