

# THE Beacon-News

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## Pritzker signs AI safety audit legislation

### First-in-nation Illinois law requires third-party checks for AI giants

By **Olivia Olander**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois will be the first state to require independent audits of large artificial intelligence developers' safety practices under a new law Gov. JB Pritzker signed Monday.

The measure was part of a broader package of bills the Democratic-controlled General Assembly pushed to fill what lawmakers view as a void left by federal inaction on AI regulation, and its enactment further strengthens state lawmakers' case that Illinois can be a leader in regulating the emerging technology.

"Where the federal government is unwilling to step up, states must venture once more unto the breach," Pritzker said at a news conference in Chicago. "History has shown time and again that thoughtful regulation is a requirement for sustainable innovation when our

economic and national security is at stake."

The legislation that Pritzker signed will require large AI developers — those with more than \$500 million in annual gross revenue — to publish explanations of how their products could pose a "catastrophic risk" and how those risks would be addressed. The requirements take effect Jan. 1, 2028.

Companies will also be required to disclose how they identify and respond to "critical safety incidents" and to report such incidents to the state within 72 hours of having sufficient reason to believe one has occurred. Developers will be required to retain a third party each year to conduct an independent compliance audit; auditors would need to demonstrate technical expertise in the safety of so-called frontier AI models.

The legislation also includes whistleblower protections, prohibiting companies from adopting poli-

cies that would prevent employees from disclosing information to state or federal authorities if they believed the company posed a public safety hazard. Companies will be required to maintain an anonymous internal reporting process for employees who believe in good faith that the company's activities present a danger to public health or safety.

Fines could run up to \$1 million for an initial violation and \$3 million for subsequent violations.

The chief Senate sponsor, Democratic state Sen. Mary Edly-Allen of Grayslake, framed the legislation as a way to ensure that government stays ahead of AI technology in a way it may have missed in the past.

"If we got social media wrong, and we did, we cannot afford to get AI wrong at an even greater scale," she said.

Decision-making on AI is too important to be left to the federal government or "tech bros whose culture of 'move fast and break things' is moving faster and faster



Gov. JB Pritzker signs SB 315, the Artificial Intelligence AI Safety Measures Act, into law on Monday in Chicago. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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Grace Gumbiner and Sam Gainer outside their soon-to-be new home in a multiunit building in the 1700 block of North Damen Avenue, June 30 in Chicago. The engaged couple started looking to buy their first home in February. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## 'Demand is insatiable'

### Homebuying season heats up, with packed open houses, offers above asking price

By **S. Sorrina Beecher**  
FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

To paint a picture of the Chicago-area housing market, visit an open house and look for the pile of shoes at the front door. That's where potential buyers — who frequently remove their shoes before walking through the home — start sizing up the competition.

Real estate agents and brokers say the Chicagoland market

continues to be defined by intense buyer demand for a limited number of homes for sale. It's a market where homes are sometimes listed and then sold within days, if not hours, and where potential buyers often need to make offers that are above the asking price in order to be successful.

Tommy Choi, co-founder and realtor at Keller Williams ONEChicago, says the Chicago

housing market was unusually "aggressive," in the first half of the year. And agents say home prices — and competition — are expected to heat up even further this summer.

While the national housing market shows signs of cooling, the Chicago area, by all accounts, appears to be defying gravity.

"The Chicago narrative is pretty different from what we're hearing from around the country,

in places like Florida or Arizona," says David Bracy, vice president at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago, attributing the region's extreme seller's market to simple laws of supply and demand. "(There are) 20 to 40 people coming through an Open House. The amount of demand is insatiable."

First-time homebuyers Sam

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## Robot gives manicures at store on Route 59



Lauren Kitchen, 19, receives a manicure from the 10Beauty robot at the Ulta Beauty at 220 S. Route 59 in Naperville on July 1. Kitchen said she wanted to try out the robot after hearing about it on TikTok. **CAROLYN STEIN/NAPERVILLE SUN**

By **Carolyn Stein**  
NAPERVILLE SUN

Lauren Kitchen, 19, first heard about a robot that gives manicures while scrolling on TikTok. When the Wheaton resident learned it was available at her local Ulta Beauty store in Naperville, she knew she had to try it out.

"It looks really nice," she said, admiring the dark blue nails she received Wednesday. "I love how glowy it is, it's really pretty. ... It takes (its) time. I like how it gets all the edges."

It's a machine she would like to own some day — if she's able to afford it, she said.

For nearly six years, robotics company 10Beauty has been building a robot that can give

a full-service manicure. That includes everything from cleaning the nail with a sponge and pushing back cuticles to filing the nails and applying the color. Customers can even watch the robot perform its work through an iPad.

The company piloted it at the end of last year at select salons and stores in the Boston area, where it is based. They have now expanded to the Chicago market with the launch of their product at Ulta Beauty's flagship store in Naperville in June and 7AM Nail Care in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood in May. 10Beauty has about 850 machines pre-sold to retail partners, including companies like Nordstrom.

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## 2 men shot on Aurora's East Side

### Police: Incident took place on Fourth of July

By **Molly Morrow**  
AURORA BEACON-NEWS

Two men were shot and injured on Aurora's East Side on the Fourth of July, with no arrests made yet in connection with the incident, according to the Aurora Police Department.

On Saturday at around 11:55 p.m., Aurora police officers responded to the 200 block of North Loucks Street for reports of two people suffering from gunshot wounds, a news release from the Aurora Police Department said. Responding officers found two men from Aurora, 29 and 35, both with gunshot wounds.

Officers rendered aid, and both men were taken by Aurora Fire Department paramedics to a local hospital, where they were treated for non-life-threatening injuries, according to the police department.

The 29-year-old has since been released from the hospital and is not expected to require additional treatment, the police department's spokesman said on Tuesday. The 35-year-old remains hospitalized, but has been moved out of the ICU and is continuing to recover from his injuries, according to police.

Detectives from the police department's Investigations Bureau responded to the scene and are investigating the incident, the news release from the department said. Evidence technicians processed the scene and recovered multiple shell casings in the area, and detectives conducted neighborhood canvasses and are continuing to follow up on leads, police said.

The preliminary investigation indicates that the men were attending a gathering outside a residence in the 200 block of North Loucks Street when they were struck by gunfire shortly before midnight, according to the police department.

As of Tuesday, no arrests had been made, and the motive for the incident remains under investigation, per the police department. At this point, investigators believe it was an isolated incident.

The Aurora Police Department is asking anyone with information about the incident to contact its Investigations Division at 630-256-5500. Tips can also be submitted anonymously to Aurora Area Crime Stoppers at 630-892-1000 or via its website.

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