NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE GOVERNMENT CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTOMATED DECISION SYSTEMS

Executive Summary

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been at the top of news feeds for the past few months. AI Systems have been in popular culture for decades, from novels to movies. However, science fiction is becoming reality and for several years, scientist, ethicists, law makers and corporate leaders from around the world have discussed how best to manage and regulate AI as it emerges.

The State of New Hampshire understands that AI Systems, such as website chat bots, image and code generators, etc. can be used to improve government processes and customer service. Because a balance must be created between the benefits and risks of using AI Systems, the New Hampshire Department of Information Technology (DoIT) developed a Code of Ethics for the use of AI Systems.

This code outlines essential principles to guide the adoption of AI Systems while safeguarding the rights, privacy, and well-being of New Hampshire residents. The Code aims to establish a framework that fosters innovation while ensuring transparency, fairness and accountability.

Summarized Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics recognizes that human rights need to be central to the development of AI Systems. Fundamental human rights include human dignity, individual freedom, respect for democracy and law, equality and nondiscrimination, and individual rights.

AI Systems need to be created using equity-based design around those human rights, making considerations for ability and access.

1. **Human Oversight and Control**:
   AI Systems should always operate under human oversight, with mechanisms in place to allow for human intervention and control when necessary, especially in critical decision-making processes.

2. **Fairness and Nondiscrimination**:
   AI Systems developers must ensure that these technologies do not perpetuate discrimination or bias against any individual or group based on factors such as age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or socio-economic status.

3. **Social Impact**:
   AI Systems should be applied in ways that contribute positively to society, respecting cultural norms, human rights and environmental sustainability.

4. **Transparency**:
   AI Systems developed within the State must be transparent in their operations, providing clear explanations for their decisions or actions. Users and stakeholders should have access to understandable documentation about the AI System's functioning, data usage and potential biases.

5. **Data Privacy and Security**:
   AI Systems must adhere to data privacy and security guidelines, ensuring the protection of personal information and preventing unauthorized access, use or disclosure of sensitive data.

6. **Accountability and Liability**:
   Agencies developing AI Systems will be held accountable for the technology's actions and impacts. Clear lines of responsibility must be established to address any negative consequences.

7. **Continuous Evaluation and Improvement**:
   Agencies should continuously assess AI Systems for their performance, impact and alignment with ethical standards. Regular audits should be conducted to identify and correct potential biases or errors.

8. **Public Engagement**:
   The development AI Systems should involve input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including members of the public, experts, accessibility groups, business owners, etc., to ensure public trust and democratic decision-making.

Conclusion

It is critically important for humans to be and remain at the center of all development, maintenance and evaluation of AI Systems. The New Hampshire Code of Ethics for AI Systems represents a significant step toward creating a responsible and beneficial AI landscape within the State. This is an exciting time and the possibilities for process and customer service improvements using AI tools are limited only by imagination. By adhering to the principles laid out in the Code, New Hampshire can foster innovation while safeguarding the interests and well-being of its residents, promote equitable access to AI-based solutions, and pave the way for a sustainable and human-centric future for AI in the State.