

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to relations between postsecondary
3 institutions and communist regimes; amending s.
4 288.8175, F.S.; removing the Florida-China Institute
5 from the list of authorized Florida linkage
6 institutes; prohibiting the creation or funding of
7 linkage institutes based on agreements between the
8 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education and
9 a counterpart organization in a foreign country
10 governed by a communist regime; requiring the Board of
11 Governors and the State Board of Education to withdraw
12 from such agreements by a specified date; creating s.
13 1004.061, F.S.; defining the term "communist regime";
14 prohibiting certain postsecondary institutions and
15 organizations from entering into specified agreements
16 with a communist regime or an entity that is organized
17 and exists under the laws of a foreign country
18 governed by a communist regime; requiring certain
19 postsecondary institutions and organizations to
20 withdraw from such agreements by a specified date;
21 amending s. 1009.43, F.S.; prohibiting certain
22 programs of study from being located in a foreign
23 country governed by a communist regime; providing an
24 effective date.
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26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (f) through (k) of subsection (4) of section 288.8175, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (e) through (j), respectively, and present paragraph (e) of subsection (4) and subsection (7) of that section are amended to read:

288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary institutions in this state and foreign countries.—

(4) The institutes are:

~~(e) Florida China Institute (University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and Eastern Florida State College).~~

(7) (a) A linkage institute may not be created or funded except upon the recommendation of the Department of Education and except by amendment to this section.

(b) A linkage institute may not be created or funded based on an agreement between the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education and a counterpart organization in a foreign country governed by a communist regime as defined in s. 1004.061(1).

(c) The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall withdraw from any agreement governing a linkage institute with a counterpart organization in a foreign country governed by a communist regime by January 1, 2022.

Section 2. Section 1004.061, Florida Statutes, is created

51 to read:

52 1004.061 Prohibited agreements.—

53 (1) As used in this section, the term "communist regime"
 54 means a government, or a ruling party or individual, which
 55 professes to subscribe to the doctrine of communism.

56 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Florida
 57 College System institution, state university, Florida College
 58 System institution direct-support organization, or state
 59 university direct-support organization may not enter into an
 60 agreement with a communist regime, or an entity that is
 61 organized and exists under the laws of a foreign country
 62 governed by a communist regime, concerning research,
 63 development, courses, or student or cultural exchange or to
 64 establish a campus.

65 (3) A Florida College System institution, state
 66 university, Florida College System institution direct-support
 67 organization, or state university direct-support organization
 68 shall withdraw from any agreement prohibited by subsection (2)
 69 by January 1, 2022.

70 Section 3. Section 1009.43, Florida Statutes, is amended
 71 to read:

72 1009.43 State student financial assistance; authorization
 73 for use in program of study in another state or foreign
 74 country.—A student who is enrolled in a public or private
 75 postsecondary educational institution in this state may apply

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76 | state student financial assistance toward the cost of a program
77 | of study in another state or a foreign country for a period of
78 | up to 1 year, if the program of study is offered or promoted by
79 | the Florida institution as an integral part of the academic
80 | studies of that degree-seeking student or as a program that
81 | would enhance the student's academic experience. This program
82 | must be approved by the president of the institution in this
83 | state or by his or her designee; however, private, postsecondary
84 | Florida institutions with out-of-state subsidiary institutions
85 | are not authorized to make Florida residents attending their
86 | out-of-state subsidiary institutions eligible for Florida
87 | financial assistance. The program of study may not be located in
88 | a foreign country governed by a communist regime as defined in
89 | s. 1004.061(1).

90 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.