

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senator Burgess

582-03065-25

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the registration of agents and organizations associated with foreign countries of concern; creating s. 106.031, F.S.; defining terms; requiring agents of foreign countries of concern and foreign-supported political organizations to register with the Division of Elections within a specified timeframe; requiring the registration of an agent of a foreign country of concern be signed under oath; requiring the division to create registration forms; providing requirements for such forms; requiring periodic updates by agents and organizations; providing penalties for violations; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 106.031, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

106.031 Registration of agents and organizations associated with foreign nations.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term:

(a) "Address" includes any address, no matter where located, inside or outside of the United States.

(b) "Agent of a foreign country of concern" means a person:

1. Who acts as an agent, an employee, a representative, or a servant, or who otherwise acts at the order, at the request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign country of concern;

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30 2. Whose actions are financed, in whole or in part, by a  
31 foreign country of concern; and

32 3. Who engages in political activity.

33 (c) "Foreign country of concern" has the same meaning as in  
34 s. 288.860.

35 (d) "Foreign-supported political organization" means a  
36 political party or a domestic partnership, an association, a  
37 corporation, an organization, or any other business entity that  
38 has, within the past 5 calendar years, received money or other  
39 things of value from a foreign country of concern or an agent of  
40 a foreign country of concern and that engages in political  
41 activity.

42 (e) "Payment" includes compensation and disbursement made  
43 in any form, including, but not limited to, contributions,  
44 income, money, tangible property, and intangible property.

45 (f) "Political activity" means an activity that is  
46 performed to:

47 1. Influence an agency, a public official, or a local  
48 governmental entity;

49 2. Influence the public in creating, adopting, or changing  
50 state laws or government policies;

51 3. Support or oppose a candidate for office;

52 4. Influence the outcome of an election; or

53 5. Support or oppose any issue.

54 (2) (a) A person who becomes an agent of a foreign country  
55 of concern must, within 10 days after becoming such an agent,  
56 register with the division. The registration must be signed  
57 under oath.

58 (b) The division shall create a form for the registration

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59 required under paragraph (a). Such form must, at a minimum,  
60 require the following information:

61 1. The registrant's name.

62 2. The address of the registrant's primary residence and  
63 all other addresses associated with the registrant.

64 3. The name and address of the registrant's principal place  
65 of business.

66 4. A detailed statement describing the nature of the  
67 registrant's business.

68 5. The name of each foreign country of concern for whom the  
69 registrant is acting, assuming or purporting to act, or has  
70 agreed to act.

71 6. A detailed statement describing the nature of the work  
72 and the character of the business or other activities of each  
73 foreign country of concern identified in subparagraph 5.

74 7. A statement detailing each time the registrant received  
75 a payment from a foreign country of concern identified in  
76 subparagraph 5. within the previous 60 days. The statement must  
77 identify the amount of the payment and the nature of such  
78 payment.

79 8. The total amount of such payments the registrant has  
80 received within the previous 60 days from a foreign country of  
81 concern identified in subparagraph 5.

82 9. A detailed statement of every activity the registrant,  
83 or a person on behalf of the registrant, is performing, has  
84 performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of a foreign  
85 country of concern identified in subparagraph 5.

86 10. If the registrant is also engaged in political activity  
87 on behalf of a person who is not associated with a foreign

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country of concern but who is an agent of a foreign country of concern, the registrant must include the following information:

a. The name, employer, business and residence addresses, and, if applicable, nationality of such person.

b. A detailed statement of all activities the registrant, or a person on behalf of the registrant, is performing, has performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of such person.

c. A statement detailing each time the registrant received a payment from such person within the previous 60 days. The statement must identify the amount of the payment and the nature of such payment.

11. A detailed statement of the payments made by the registrant during the previous 60 days in connection with actions taken by the registrant as an agent of, on behalf of, or in furtherance of the goals of a foreign country of concern or a person identified in subparagraph 10.

12. A detailed statement of any payments made by the registrant during the previous 60 days related to any political activity.

(c) A registrant must update the information required by paragraph (b) at least every 90 days.

(d) A person must file as an agent of a foreign country of concern for any period of time he or she was engaged in such position.

(3)(a) On or before January 1, 2026, each foreign-supported political organization must register with the division.

(b) The division shall create a form for the registration required under paragraph (a). Such form must, at a minimum, require the following information:

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117       1. The organization's name and mailing address and the  
118 address of any physical office.

119       2. The names and titles of all officers or directors of the  
120 organization.

121       3. The address of each person identified in subparagraph 2.

122       4. A detailed statement of any payment made by the  
123 organization that would constitute political activity during the  
124 previous calendar year.

125       5. A detailed statement of any payment made to, or received  
126 by, the organization from a foreign country of concern or an  
127 agent of a foreign country of concern during the preceding  
128 calendar year.

129       (c) An organization must update the information required by  
130 paragraph (b) at least every 90 days.

131       (4) Upon a finding by the Florida Elections Commission of a  
132 violation of this section, in addition to the remedies provided  
133 in ss. 106.265 and 106.27, an organization from a foreign  
134 country of concern or an agent of a foreign country of concern  
135 may be liable for the following penalties:

136       (a) For any violation, a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

137       (b) For any willful or repeated violation, a fine of up to  
138 \$2,000 per violation.

139       (c) For any willful or repeated violation in which the  
140 foreign country of concern is a hostile foreign country of  
141 concern, a fine of up to \$10,000 per violation and a temporary  
142 or permanent ban from future registration.

143       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.