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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to foreign countries of concern;  
3       amending s. 381.0202, F.S.; prohibiting laboratories  
4       from using certain operational or research software  
5       produced in or by a foreign country of concern, a  
6       state-owned enterprise of a foreign country of  
7       concern, or a company domiciled within a foreign  
8       country of concern; defining the term "foreign country  
9       of concern"; amending s. 408.810, F.S.; providing  
10      certain protections for licensees who fail to obtain  
11      assurances from a person or an entity that indirectly  
12      owns a controlling interest in the licensee or  
13      indirectly holds an interest in certain entities;  
14      revising and providing definitions; providing an  
15      effective date.

16  
17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19       Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 381.0202,  
20   Florida Statutes, to read:

21       381.0202 Laboratory services.—

22       (5) The department may not allow in any laboratory under  
23       this section the use of any operational or research software  
24       used for genetic sequencing that is produced in or by a foreign  
25       country of concern, a state-owned enterprise of a foreign  
26       country of concern, or a company domiciled within a foreign  
27       country of concern. For purposes of this subsection, the term  
28       "foreign country of concern" means the People's Republic of  
29       China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the

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30 Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the  
31 Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab  
32 Republic, including any agency of such foreign country of  
33 concern.

34 Section 2. Subsection (15) of section 408.810, Florida  
35 Statutes, is amended to read:

36 408.810 Minimum licensure requirements.—In addition to the  
37 licensure requirements specified in this part, authorizing  
38 statutes, and applicable rules, each applicant and licensee must  
39 comply with the requirements of this section in order to obtain  
40 and maintain a license.

41 (15)(a) The licensee must ensure that a person or an entity  
42 that ~~who~~ possesses a controlling interest does not hold, either  
43 directly or indirectly, regardless of ownership structure, an  
44 interest in an entity that has a business relationship with a  
45 foreign country of concern or that is subject to s. 287.135.

46 (b) The failure of a licensee to obtain assurances from a  
47 person or an entity that indirectly owns a controlling interest  
48 in the licensee or indirectly holds an interest in an entity as  
49 specified in paragraph (a) does not:

50 1. Affect the license or insurability of the licensee; or  
51 2. Subject the licensee to civil or criminal liability,  
52 unless the licensee has actual knowledge that an indirect  
53 interest holder is:

54 a. A foreign principal from a foreign country of concern;  
55 and

56 b. Not in compliance with the requirements of this section.

57 (c) ~~(b)~~ For purposes of this subsection, the term:

58 1. "Business relationship" means engaging in commerce in

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any form, which includes ~~including, but not limited to,~~  
acquiring, developing, maintaining, owning, selling, possessing,  
leasing, or operating equipment, facilities, personnel,  
products, services, personal property, real property, or  
military equipment, ~~or any other apparatus of business or~~  
~~commerce.~~

2. "Foreign country of concern" means the People's Republic  
of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran,  
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba,  
the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab  
Republic, including any agency of such foreign country of  
concern ~~has the same meaning as in s. 692.201.~~

3. "Foreign principal" has the same meaning as in s.  
692.201.

4. "Indirect interest holder" means a person or an entity  
which, at the time of initial application or renewal, owns less  
than 5 percent of the licensee; owns less than 5 percent in the  
management company or other entity that contracts with the  
licensee to manage the provider; or owns equities in a publicly  
traded company that has a controlling interest or noncontrolling  
interest in the licensee.

~~5.3.~~ "Interest" has the same meaning as in s. 286.101(1).

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.