

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6708

BILL NUMBER: SB 256

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 15, 2026

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Political Activity of Agents of Hostile Nations.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Garten

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires certain persons acting on behalf of a hostile foreign country to register with the Attorney General.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill could increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General (AG) by requiring the AG to ensure that appropriate agents and foreign supported political organizations have registered with the AG. A registrant must update the information required at least once every quarter. The AG may also impose sanctions, including civil penalties, the authority to suspend or permanently bar an agent or organization.

The bill's requirements are within the agency's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Civil Penalties:* The bill allows the AG to assess a civil penalties of \$500 for violating the bill's requirements, and \$10,000 if the AG finds that the violation was willful or that the person committed repeated violations. As a result, the bill could increase the number of civil court cases if the AG finds that an agent or foreign-supported political organization has violated or repeatedly violated the bill's provisions governing the registration of agents of hostile nations. Therefore, the General Fund could receive additional revenue from civil penalties and court case filings.

If additional civil cases occur and court fees are collected, revenue to the state General Fund will increase. The total revenue per case would range between \$100 and \$122. The amount deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional cases occur, revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county will receive \$32 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$20, and the municipality will receive \$37. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

State Agencies Affected: Office of Attorney General.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, city and town courts.

Information Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual

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