
SENATE BILL No. 256

AM025601 has been incorporated into January 21, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Foreign agent registration and foreign terrorist organizations.

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SB 256—LS 6708/DI 106



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Reprinted
January 21, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 256

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state offices and administration.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 4-6-17 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2026]:
4 **Chapter 17. Foreign Agent Registration and Foreign Terrorist**
5 **Organizations**
6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "affiliate of a foreign terrorist**
7 **organization" means a person who:**
8 **(1) is or was an agent, representative, employee, or servant**
9 **of a foreign terrorist organization;**
10 **(2) acts or acted in any capacity at the order or request or**
11 **under the direction or control of a foreign terrorist**
12 **organization; or**
13 **(3) provides, or at any point in the preceding five (5) years**
14 **provided, material support or resources to aid a foreign**
15 **terrorist organization.**
16 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "agent" means an agent of a**
17 **hostile foreign principal.**

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- 1 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "agent of a hostile foreign**
- 2 **principal" means a person:**
- 3 **(1) who either:**
- 4 **(A) is an agent, representative, employee, or servant; or**
- 5 **(B) acts in any capacity at the order, request, or under**
- 6 **the direction or control;**
- 7 **of a hostile foreign principal;**
- 8 **(2) whose activities are directly or indirectly financed in**
- 9 **whole or in part by a hostile foreign principal; and**
- 10 **(3) who engages in political activity on behalf of a hostile**
- 11 **foreign principal in Indiana.**
- 12 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "foreign supported political**
- 13 **organization" means a political party, or a domestic partnership,**
- 14 **association, corporation, organization, or other combination of**
- 15 **persons:**
- 16 **(1) that has, within the previous five (5) calendar years,**
- 17 **received money or anything of value from a hostile foreign**
- 18 **principal or an agent; and**
- 19 **(2) that engages in political activity.**
- 20 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "hostile foreign country" means**
- 21 **one (1) or more of the following:**
- 22 **(1) The People's Republic of China.**
- 23 **(2) The Russian Federation.**
- 24 **(3) The People's Republic of North Korea.**
- 25 **(4) The Islamic Republic of Iran.**
- 26 **Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "foreign terrorist organization"**
- 27 **means any organization designated by the United States**
- 28 **government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under Section 219**
- 29 **of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).**
- 30 **Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "hostile foreign principal"**
- 31 **means one (1) or more of the following:**
- 32 **(1) The government of a hostile foreign country, a political**
- 33 **party of a hostile foreign country, or any member of a**
- 34 **political party of a hostile foreign country.**
- 35 **(2) A nonresident alien of a hostile foreign country.**
- 36 **(3) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or**
- 37 **other combination of persons organized under the laws of, or**
- 38 **having its principal place of business in, a hostile foreign**
- 39 **country.**
- 40 **(4) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or**
- 41 **other combination of persons that is at least twenty percent**
- 42 **(20%) beneficially owned by a hostile foreign country, the**

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1 government of a hostile foreign country, a nonresident alien
 2 of a hostile foreign country, or an entity organized under the
 3 laws of, or having its principal place of business in, a hostile
 4 foreign country.

5 **Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "political activity" means an**
 6 **activity that is performed with the intent to influence:**

7 (1) a state or local governmental entity, agency, or public
 8 official in Indiana; or

9 (2) the general public in Indiana;
 10 concerning the formulation, adoption, or modification of the laws
 11 or policies of the state, or the election or opposition to the election
 12 of a candidate for state or local office.

13 **Sec. 9. (a) This section applies to an agent. Before acting as an**
 14 **agent, a person who acts as an agent shall file with the attorney**
 15 **general a true and complete registration statement in addition to**
 16 **supplements as required.**

17 (b) The registration statement must include the following:

18 (1) The registrant's name.

19 (2) The registrant's principal business address, and all other
 20 business addresses in the United States or elsewhere.

21 (3) The registrant's residential addresses, if any.

22 (4) If the registrant is an individual, the registrant's
 23 nationality.

24 (5) If the registrant is a partnership, the names, residential
 25 addresses, and nationalities of each partner and a true and
 26 complete copy of the partnership's certificate of partnership.

27 (6) If the registrant is an association, corporation,
 28 organization, or any other combination of individuals, the
 29 following:

30 (A) The names, residential addresses, and nationalities
 31 of each director and officer and each person performing
 32 the functions of a director or officer.

33 (B) A true and complete copy of its charter, articles of
 34 incorporation, association, constitution, bylaws, and
 35 amendments to those documents.

36 (C) A copy of every other instrument or document and
 37 a statement of the terms and conditions of every oral
 38 agreement relating to its organization, powers, and
 39 purposes.

40 (D) A statement of its ownership and control.

41 (7) A comprehensive statement of the nature of the
 42 registrant's business.

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- 1 **(8) A complete list of the registrant's employees and a**
 2 **statement of the nature of the work of each employee.**
 3 **(9) The name and address of every hostile foreign principal**
 4 **for whom the registrant is acting or has agreed to act.**
 5 **(10) The character of the business or other activities of every**
 6 **hostile foreign principal and, if a hostile foreign principal is**
 7 **not a natural person, a statement of the ownership and**
 8 **control of each hostile foreign principal.**
 9 **(11) The extent, if any, to which each hostile foreign**
 10 **principal is supervised, directed, owned, controlled, financed,**
 11 **or subsidized, in whole or in part, by a government of a**
 12 **foreign country or foreign political party, or by another**
 13 **agent or hostile foreign principal.**
 14 **(12) A comprehensive statement of the nature and method of**
 15 **performance of each contract with a hostile foreign**
 16 **principal.**
 17 **(13) A comprehensive statement of the existing and proposed**
 18 **activities engaged in, or to be engaged in, by the registrant as**
 19 **an agent, including a detailed statement of any activity that**
 20 **is a political activity.**
 21 **(14) The nature and amount of contributions, income,**
 22 **money, or things of value, if any, that the registrant has**
 23 **received within the preceding sixty (60) days from each**
 24 **hostile foreign principal, either as compensation or for**
 25 **disbursement or otherwise, and the form and time of each**
 26 **such payment and from whom received.**
 27 **(15) A detailed statement of every activity that the registrant**
 28 **assumes, purports, or agrees to perform for the registrant or**
 29 **any other person other than a hostile foreign principal and**
 30 **that requires registration under this chapter, including a**
 31 **detailed statement of any activity that is a political activity.**
 32 **(16) The name, business, and residence addresses, and if an**
 33 **individual, the nationality, of any person other than a hostile**
 34 **foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting or has**
 35 **agreed to act and the following:**
 36 **(A) Information concerning the extent that the person is**
 37 **supervised, directed, owned, controlled, financed, or**
 38 **subsidized, in whole or in part, by any government of a**
 39 **foreign country or foreign political party or by any**
 40 **other foreign principal from a hostile foreign country.**
 41 **(B) Information concerning the nature and amount of**
 42 **contributions, income, money, or things of value, if any,**

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1 that the registrant has received during the preceding
 2 sixty (60) days from each person in connection with any
 3 of the activities under subdivision (15), either as
 4 compensation or for disbursement or otherwise, and the
 5 form and time of each payment and from whom
 6 payment was received.

7 (17) A detailed statement of the money and other things of
 8 value spent or disposed of by the registrant during the
 9 preceding sixty (60) days in furtherance of or in connection
 10 with activities that require registration under this chapter.

11 (18) Notwithstanding any other laws, a detailed statement of
 12 any contributions of money or other things of value made by
 13 the registrant during the preceding sixty (60) days in
 14 connection with an election to any political office or in
 15 connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus
 16 held to select candidates for any political office.

17 (19) Other statements, information, or documents as
 18 required by the attorney general.

19 (20) Statements and copies of documents that are necessary
 20 to make the statements made in the registration statement
 21 and supplements not misleading.

22 (c) In addition to the information required under subsection
 23 (b), a registrant must also file copies of each written agreement and
 24 the terms and conditions of each oral agreement, including any
 25 modifications, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all
 26 the circumstances, by reason of which the registrant is an agent.

27 (d) A registrant must update the information required under
 28 subsection (b) at least once every quarter.

29 (e) An agent shall pay a fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) at
 30 the time the agent files an initial registration statement under this
 31 chapter.

32 (f) An agent shall pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) each
 33 time the agent files a supplemental registration statement under
 34 this section.

35 (g) A fee established by the attorney general in accordance
 36 with this section must accompany an application for registration
 37 or renewal of registration.

38 (h) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (d) is a
 39 violation of this chapter.

40 Sec. 10. (a) Before January 1, 2027, a foreign supported
 41 political organization must file with the attorney general a true and
 42 complete registration statement in addition to supplements as

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- 1 required.
- 2 (b) The registration statement must include the following:
- 3 (1) The name of the foreign supported political organization,
- 4 its business address, and the names, titles, and addresses of
- 5 all officers and directors of the foreign supported political
- 6 organization.
- 7 (2) If the foreign supported political organization is affiliated
- 8 with or is a chapter of a national organization, the name of
- 9 the national organization, its address, and the names and
- 10 addresses of its officers and directors.
- 11 (3) A detailed statement of any expenditures of money or
- 12 anything of value made by the organization within the prior
- 13 calendar year for the purpose of political activity.
- 14 (4) A detailed statement of all money or anything of value
- 15 received by the organization from a hostile foreign principal
- 16 or an agent during the preceding calendar year.
- 17 (c) A registrant must update the information required under
- 18 subsection (b) at least once every quarter.
- 19 (d) A foreign supported political organization shall pay a fee
- 20 of five hundred dollars (\$500) at the time the agent files an initial
- 21 registration statement under this section.
- 22 (e) A fee established by the attorney general in accordance
- 23 with this chapter must accompany an application for registration
- 24 or renewal of registration.
- 25 (f) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (c) is a
- 26 violation of this chapter.
- 27 **Sec. 11. It is a violation of this chapter if a person or agent:**
- 28 (1) submits a registration statement required to be filed
- 29 under this chapter that is materially incorrect;
- 30 (2) fails to file a corrected registration statement or report
- 31 after being requested to do so by the attorney general; or
- 32 (3) fails to make a filing required by section 9 or section 10
- 33 of this chapter.
- 34 **Sec. 12. (a) Whenever the attorney general has reasonable**
- 35 **cause to believe a person or entity may be an affiliate of a foreign**
- 36 **terrorist organization, the attorney general may exercise all**
- 37 **existing civil investigative powers, including the issuance of civil**
- 38 **investigative demands, to determine whether the entity is an**
- 39 **affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization.**
- 40 (b) If the attorney general determines, based on the attorney
- 41 general's investigation, that a person or entity is an affiliate of a
- 42 foreign terrorist organization, the attorney general shall notify the

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1 person or entity of the attorney general's determination and
 2 provide the entity with thirty (30) days in which to submit a formal
 3 response to the attorney general's determination.

4 (c) The attorney general shall provide the attorney general's
 5 determination, the evidence on which it is based, and the person's
 6 or entity's response to the governor.

7 Sec. 13. The governor shall designate a person or entity as an
 8 affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization if the governor
 9 concludes, based on a review of the results of the investigation
 10 conducted by the attorney general under section 12 of this chapter
 11 and the person's or entity's formal response, that the evidence
 12 amassed by the attorney general demonstrates that it is more likely
 13 than not that the person or entity is an affiliate of a foreign
 14 terrorist organization.

15 Sec. 14. (a) Any person or entity that is designated an affiliate
 16 of a foreign terrorist organization shall:

17 (1) be denied all state funds provided by any state agency,
 18 including:

19 (A) funding;

20 (B) benefits; or

21 (C) other forms of support;

22 received or provided, directly or indirectly, from the state;

23 (2) be prohibited from entering into any contract with the
 24 state; and

25 (3) be denied any:

26 (A) employment;

27 (B) tax benefit;

28 (C) privilege; or

29 (D) other form of a state benefit or privilege, whether
 30 provided or received directly or indirectly.

31 (b) No public university, community college, school district, or
 32 other recipient of state funds may, after the date of the governor
 33 designates that a person or entity is an affiliate of a foreign
 34 terrorist organization under section 13 of this chapter, knowingly
 35 provide a grant, contract, loan, tax credit, tax exemption, or other
 36 financial benefit to an affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization.

37 Sec. 15. (a) A designation under section 13 of this chapter
 38 remains in effect until rescinded by the governor.

39 (b) The governor shall rescind a designation under section 13
 40 of this chapter only if:

41 (1) the governor determines that the designation was
 42 erroneous; or



1 **(2) the governor determines that the actions of the person or**
 2 **entity that support the designation occurred more than five**
 3 **(5) years ago.**
 4 **Sec. 16. (a) If the attorney general has reasonable cause to**
 5 **believe a violation of this chapter has occurred, the attorney**
 6 **general may bring an action in the name of the state in connection**
 7 **with a violation of this chapter to seek:**
 8 **(1) appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief;**
 9 **(2) the costs and expenses of the suit, including reasonable**
 10 **attorney's fees and expert fees; and**
 11 **(3) a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars**
 12 **(\$500).**
 13 **(b) If a violation of this chapter is committed intentionally, or**
 14 **constitutes a second or subsequent violation, the attorney general**
 15 **may bring a civil action to recover a civil penalty of not more than**
 16 **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation, in addition to the**
 17 **relief provided in subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2).**
 18 **(c) A civil penalty collected under this chapter shall be**
 19 **deposited in the state general fund.**
 20 **Sec. 17. The attorney general may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2**
 21 **to carry out this chapter.**
 22 SECTION 2. IC 36-1-32-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.136-2024,
 23 SECTION 52, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 24 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. **(a) A unit may not enter into a sister city**
 25 **agreement or any cooperative agreement with a prohibited person.**
 26 **(b) Any agreement or cooperative agreement between a unit**
 27 **and a prohibited person is contrary to public policy and is void and**
 28 **unenforceable.**

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