
SENATE BILL No. 256

AM025602 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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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 **covered foreign principal.**

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1 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "agent of a covered 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 covered foreign principal;**

8 **(2) whose activities are directly or indirectly financed in**
9 **whole or in part by a covered foreign principal; and**

10 **(3) who engages in political activity on behalf of a covered**
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 three (3) calendar years,**
17 **received money or anything of value from a covered foreign**
18 **principal or an agent, unless the money or thing of value:**

19 **(A) was obtained through bona fide commercial activity**
20 **engaged in connection with an arm's length transaction;**

21 **or**

22 **(B) is less than ten percent (10%) of the annual revenue**
23 **of the:**

24 **(i) political party;**

25 **(ii) domestic partnership;**

26 **(iii) association;**

27 **(iv) corporation;**

28 **(v) organization; or**

29 **(vi) other combination of persons; and**

30 **(2) that engages in political activity.**

31 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "hostile foreign country" means**
32 **one (1) or more of the following:**

33 **(1) The People's Republic of China.**

34 **(2) The Russian Federation.**

35 **(3) The People's Republic of North Korea.**

36 **(4) The Islamic Republic of Iran.**

37 **(5) A foreign country listed in 15 CFR 791.4.**

38 **(6) A country designated as a threat to critical infrastructure**
39 **by the governor under IC 1-1-16-8.**

40 **Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "foreign terrorist organization"**
41 **means any organization designated by the United States**
42 **government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under Section 219**

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1 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

2 Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "covered foreign principal"
3 means one (1) or more of the following:

4 (1) The government of a hostile foreign country, a political
5 party of a hostile foreign country, or any member of a
6 political party of a hostile foreign country.

7 (2) A nonresident alien of a hostile foreign country.

8 (3) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or
9 other combination of persons organized under the laws of, or
10 having its principal place of business in, a hostile foreign
11 country.

12 (4) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or
13 other combination of persons that is at least fifty-one percent
14 (51%) beneficially owned by a hostile foreign country, the
15 government of a hostile foreign country, a nonresident alien
16 of a hostile foreign country, or an entity organized under the
17 laws of, or having its principal place of business in, a hostile
18 foreign country.

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

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

23 (2) the general public in Indiana;

24 concerning the formulation, adoption, or modification of the laws
25 or policies of the state, or the election or opposition to the election
26 of a candidate for state or local office.

27 Sec. 9. (a) This section applies to a person who acts as an agent
28 of a covered foreign principal after December 31, 2026.

29 (b) Before or not later than thirty (30) calendar days after
30 beginning to act as an agent of a covered foreign principal, a
31 person who acts as an agent shall file with the attorney general a
32 true and complete registration statement in addition to
33 supplements as required.

34 (c) The registration statement must include the following:

35 (1) The registrant's name.

36 (2) The registrant's principal business address.

37 (3) If the registrant is a partnership, the names of each
38 partner and the locations of their domiciles.

39 (4) If the registrant is an association, corporation,
40 organization, or any other combination of individuals, the
41 names and the locations of the domiciles of each director,
42 officer, and person performing the functions of a director or



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- 1 officer.
- 2 **(5) A description of the circumstances requiring the filing of**
- 3 **the registration statement, including the following:**
- 4 **(A) The name and primary foreign address of the**
- 5 **covered foreign principal for whom the registrant is**
- 6 **acting or will act as an agent.**
- 7 **(B) Each category described in section 7(1) through 7(4)**
- 8 **of this chapter that applies to the covered foreign**
- 9 **principal.**
- 10 **(C) The nature of the relationship between the**
- 11 **registrant and the covered foreign principal that**
- 12 **qualifies the registrant as an agent of a covered foreign**
- 13 **principal under section 3 of this chapter.**
- 14 **(6) A comprehensive statement of the nature of the**
- 15 **registrant's business.**
- 16 **(7) Other statements, information, or documents pertinent to**
- 17 **the purposes of this chapter as the attorney general may**
- 18 **require by regulation.**
- 19 **(d) A registrant must update the information required to**
- 20 **reflect any material change in the information not later than ninety**
- 21 **(90) calendar days after the material change occurred.**
- 22 **(e) An agent shall pay a fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) at**
- 23 **the time the agent files an initial registration statement under this**
- 24 **chapter.**
- 25 **(f) An agent shall pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) each**
- 26 **time the agent files a supplemental registration statement under**
- 27 **this section.**
- 28 **(g) A fee established by the attorney general in accordance**
- 29 **with this section must accompany an application for registration**
- 30 **or renewal of registration.**
- 31 **(h) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (d) is a**
- 32 **violation of this chapter.**
- 33 **Sec. 10. (a) This section applies to the political activity of a**
- 34 **foreign supported political organization occurring after December**
- 35 **31, 2026.**
- 36 **(b) Before February 1 of each year, a foreign supported**
- 37 **political organization must file with the attorney general a**
- 38 **registration statement in addition to supplements as required by**
- 39 **the attorney general.**
- 40 **(c) The registration statement must include the following:**
- 41 **(1) The name of the foreign supported political organization,**
- 42 **its business address, and the names and addresses of all**

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- 1 officers and directors of the foreign supported political
2 organization.
- 3 (2) If the foreign supported political organization is affiliated
4 with or is a chapter of a national organization, the name of
5 the national organization, its address, and the names and
6 titles of its officers and directors.
- 7 (3) A statement that describes any:
8 (A) expenditures made by the organization; and
9 (B) money or thing of value received by the organization
10 from a covered foreign principal or an agent;
11 for the purpose of political activity during the preceding calendar
12 year.
- 13 (d) A registrant must update the information required to
14 reflect any material change in the information not later than ninety
15 (90) calendar days after the material change occurred.
- 16 (e) A foreign supported political organization shall pay a fee
17 of five hundred dollars (\$500) at the time the organization files an
18 initial registration statement under this section.
- 19 (f) A fee established by the attorney general in accordance
20 with this chapter must accompany an application for registration
21 or renewal of registration.
- 22 (g) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (c) is a
23 violation of this chapter.
- 24 Sec. 11. (a) This section applies after December 31, 2026.
- 25 (b) It is a violation of this chapter if a person:
26 (1) without exercising reasonable care, submits a registration
27 statement required to be filed under this chapter that is
28 materially incorrect;
29 (2) fails to file a corrected registration statement or report
30 after being requested to do so by the attorney general; or
31 (3) fails to make a filing required by section 9 or section 10
32 of this chapter.
- 33 Sec. 12. (a) Whenever the attorney general has reasonable
34 cause to believe a person or entity may be an affiliate of a foreign
35 terrorist organization, the attorney general may exercise all
36 existing civil investigative powers, including the issuance of civil
37 investigative demands, to determine whether the entity is an
38 affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization.
- 39 (b) If the attorney general determines, based on the attorney
40 general's investigation, that a person or entity is an affiliate of a
41 foreign terrorist organization, the attorney general shall notify the
42 person or entity of the attorney general's determination and

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

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

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

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

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

18 (A) funding;

19 (B) benefits; or

20 (C) other forms of support;

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

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

24 (3) be denied any:

25 (A) employment;

26 (B) tax benefit;

27 (C) privilege; or

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

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

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

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

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

42 (2) the governor determines that the actions of the person or

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1 entity that support the designation occurred more than five
 2 (5) years ago.
 3 Sec. 16. (a) If the attorney general has probable cause to
 4 believe a violation of this chapter has occurred, the attorney
 5 general may bring an action in the name of the state in connection
 6 with a violation of this chapter to seek:
 7 (1) appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief;
 8 (2) the costs and expenses of the suit, including reasonable
 9 attorney's fees and expert fees; and
 10 (3) a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars
 11 (\$500).
 12 (b) If a violation of this chapter is committed intentionally, or
 13 constitutes a second or subsequent violation, the attorney general
 14 may bring a civil action to recover a civil penalty of not more than
 15 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation, in addition to the
 16 relief provided in subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2).
 17 (c) A civil penalty collected under this chapter shall be
 18 deposited in the state general fund.
 19 Sec. 17. The attorney general may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
 20 to carry out this chapter.

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