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# SENATE BILL No. 256

Proposed Changes to January 21, 2026 printing by AM025602

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Covered foreign principal. Amends the definition of "foreign supported political organization", "hostile foreign country", and "hostile foreign principal". Amends the registration statement requirements for a person acting as an agent and for a foreign supported political organization. Makes conforming changes.

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 **<del>hostile</del> covered foreign principal.**
- 18 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "agent of a <del>hostile</del> covered**

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1 foreign principal" means a person:

2 (1) who either:

3 (A) is an agent, representative, employee, or servant; or

4 (B) acts in any capacity at the order, request, or under  
5 the direction or control;

6 of a ~~hostile~~ covered foreign principal;

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

10 (3) who engages in political activity on behalf of a  
11 ~~hostile~~ covered 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~~ three (~~5~~ 3)  
17 calendar years, received money or anything of value from a  
18 ~~hostile~~ covered foreign principal or an agent ~~and~~

19 >], unless the money or thing of value:

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

22 or

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

25 (i) political party;

26 (ii) domestic partnership;

27 (iii) association;

28 (iv) corporation;

29 (v) organization; or

30 (vi) other combination of persons; and

31 ] (2) that engages in political activity.

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

34 (1) The People's Republic of China.

35 (2) The Russian Federation.

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

37 (4) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

38 [ (5) A foreign country listed in 15 CFR 791.4.

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

41 ] Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "foreign terrorist organization"  
42 means any organization designated by the United States

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1 government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under Section 219  
2 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

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

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

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

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

13 (4) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or  
14 other combination of persons that is at least  
15 ~~twenty~~ fifty-one percent (~~20%~~ 51%) beneficially  
16 owned by a hostile foreign country, the government of a  
17 hostile foreign country, a nonresident alien of a hostile  
18 foreign country, or an entity organized under the laws of, or  
19 having its principal place of business in, a hostile foreign  
20 country.

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

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

25 (2) the general public in Indiana;

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

29 Sec. 9. (a) This section applies to ~~an agent. Before acting as~~  
30 ~~an agent~~ a person who acts as an agent of a covered foreign  
31 principal after December 31, 2026.

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

37 (~~b~~ c) The registration statement must include the  
38 following:

39 (1) The registrant's name.

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

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

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- 1 ~~(4) If the registrant is an individual, the registrant's~~  
 2 ~~nationality.~~
- 3 ~~(5) (3) If the registrant is a partnership, the names~~  
 4 ~~residential addresses, and nationalities~~ of each partner and  
 5 ~~a true and complete copy of the partnership's certificate of~~  
 6 ~~partnership.~~
- 7 ~~(6) the locations of their domiciles.~~
- 8 (4) If the registrant is an association, corporation,  
 9 organization, or any other combination of individuals, the  
 10 following:
- 11 ~~(A) The names, residential addresses, and~~  
 12 ~~nationalities~~ the locations of the domiciles of each  
 13 ~~director and officer~~ and officer and ~~each~~ person  
 14 performing the functions of a director or officer.
- 15 >[] ~~(B) A true and complete copy of its charter, articles~~  
 16 ~~of incorporation, association, constitution, bylaws, and~~  
 17 ~~amendments to those documents.~~
- 18 ~~(C) A copy of every other instrument or document and~~  
 19 ~~a statement of the terms and conditions of every oral~~  
 20 ~~agreement relating to its organization, powers, and~~  
 21 ~~purposes.~~
- 22 ~~(D) A statement of its ownership and control.~~
- 23 ~~(7) (5) A description of the circumstances requiring the filing~~  
 24 ~~of the registration statement, including the following:~~
- 25 (A) The name and primary foreign address of the  
 26 covered foreign principal for whom the registrant is  
 27 acting or will act as an agent.
- 28 (B) Each category described in section 7(1) through 7(4)  
 29 of this chapter that applies to the covered foreign  
 30 principal.
- 31 (C) The nature of the relationship between the  
 32 registrant and the covered foreign principal that  
 33 qualifies the registrant as an agent of a covered foreign  
 34 principal under section 3 of this chapter.
- 35 (6) A comprehensive statement of the nature of the  
 36 registrant's business.
- 37 ~~(8) A complete list of the registrant's employees and a~~  
 38 ~~statement of the nature of the work of each employee.~~
- 39 ~~(9) The name and address of every hostile foreign principal~~  
 40 ~~for whom the registrant is acting or has agreed to act.~~
- 41 ~~(10) The character of the business or other activities of every~~  
 42 ~~hostile foreign principal and, if a hostile foreign principal is~~



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

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- 1 ~~(17) A detailed statement of the money and other things of~~  
 2 ~~value spent or disposed of by the registrant during the~~  
 3 ~~preceding sixty (60) days in furtherance of or in connection~~  
 4 ~~with activities that require registration under this chapter.~~  
 5 ~~(18) Notwithstanding any other laws, a detailed statement of~~  
 6 ~~any contributions of money or other things of value made by~~  
 7 ~~the registrant during the preceding sixty (60) days in~~  
 8 ~~connection with an election to any political office or in~~  
 9 ~~connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus~~  
 10 ~~held to select candidates for any political office.~~  
 11 ~~(19) [7] Other statements, information, or documents~~  
 12 ~~[pertinent to the purposes of this chapter] as required by~~  
 13 ~~the attorney general.~~  
 14 ~~(20) Statements and copies of documents that are necessary~~  
 15 ~~to make the statements made in the registration statement~~  
 16 ~~and supplements not misleading.~~  
 17 ~~(c) In addition to the information required under subsection~~  
 18 ~~(b), a registrant must also file copies of each written agreement and~~  
 19 ~~the terms and conditions of each oral agreement, including any~~  
 20 ~~modifications, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all~~  
 21 ~~the circumstances, by reason of which the registrant is an agent [~~  
 22 ~~may require by regulation].~~  
 23 (d) A registrant must update the information required ~~under~~  
 24 ~~subsection (b) at least once every quarter~~ [to reflect any material  
 25 change in the information not later than ninety (90) calendar days  
 26 after the material change occurred].  
 27 (e) An agent shall pay a fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) at  
 28 the time the agent files an initial registration statement under this  
 29 chapter.  
 30 (f) An agent shall pay a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) each  
 31 time the agent files a supplemental registration statement under  
 32 this section.  
 33 (g) A fee established by the attorney general in accordance  
 34 with this section must accompany an application for registration  
 35 or renewal of registration.  
 36 (h) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (d) is a  
 37 violation of this chapter.  
 38 Sec. 10. (a) [This section applies to the political activity of a  
 39 foreign supported political organization occurring after December  
 40 31, 2026.  
 41 (b) Before ~~January~~ [February] 1 ~~2027~~ [of each year], a  
 42 foreign supported political organization must file with the attorney



1 general a ~~<true and complete>~~ registration statement in addition  
2 to supplements as required [ by the attorney general ].

3 [ ] (~~<b>~~[c]) The registration statement must include the  
4 following:

5 (1) The name of the foreign supported political organization,  
6 its business address, and the names ~~<, titles,>~~ and addresses  
7 of all officers and directors of the foreign supported political  
8 organization.

9 (2) If the foreign supported political organization is affiliated  
10 with or is a chapter of a national organization, the name of  
11 the national organization, its address, and the names and  
12 ~~<addresses>~~ [titles] of its officers and directors.

13 (3) A ~~<detailed>~~ statement ~~<of>~~ [that describes] any:  
14 [A)] expenditures ~~<of money or anything of value>~~ made  
15 by the organization ~~<within the prior calendar year for~~  
16 ~~the purpose of political activity.~~

17 ~~— (4) A detailed statement of all money or anything > [; and~~  
18 [B) money or thing] of value received by the  
19 organization from a ~~<hostile>~~ [covered] foreign principal  
20 or an agent ];

21 for the purpose of political activity] during the preceding calendar  
22 year.~~<~~

23 ~~>~~ (~~<e>~~[d]) A registrant must update the information required  
24 ~~<under subsection (b) at least once every quarter.~~

25 ~~— (d) [to reflect any material change in the information not later~~  
26 ~~than ninety (90) calendar days after the material change occurred.~~

27 [e)] A foreign supported political organization shall pay a fee  
28 of five hundred dollars (\$500) at the time the  
29 ~~<agent>~~ [organization] files an initial registration statement under  
30 this section.

31 (~~<e>~~[f]) A fee established by the attorney general in  
32 accordance with this chapter must accompany an application for  
33 registration or renewal of registration.

34 [ ] (~~<f>~~[g]) Failure to comply with subsections (a) through (c) is  
35 a violation of this chapter.

36 Sec. 11. [(a) This section applies after December 31, 2026.

37 (b) ] It is a violation of this chapter if a person ~~<or agent>~~:

38 (1) [ without exercising reasonable care,] submits a  
39 registration statement required to be filed under this chapter  
40 that is materially incorrect;

41 (2) fails to file a corrected registration statement or report  
42 after being requested to do so by the attorney general; or

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1           (3) fails to make a filing required by section 9 or section 10  
2           of this chapter.

3           **Sec. 12. (a) Whenever the attorney general has reasonable**  
4           **cause to believe a person or entity may be an affiliate of a foreign**  
5           **terrorist organization, the attorney general may exercise all**  
6           **existing civil investigative powers, including the issuance of civil**  
7           **investigative demands, to determine whether the entity is an**  
8           **affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization.**

9           **(b) If the attorney general determines, based on the attorney**  
10          **general's investigation, that a person or entity is an affiliate of a**  
11          **foreign terrorist organization, the attorney general shall notify the**  
12          **person or entity of the attorney general's determination and**  
13          **provide the entity with thirty (30) days in which to submit a formal**  
14          **response to the attorney general's determination.**

15          **(c) The attorney general shall provide the attorney general's**  
16          **determination, the evidence on which it is based, and the person's**  
17          **or entity's response to the governor.**

18          **Sec. 13. The governor shall designate a person or entity as an**  
19          **affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization if the governor**  
20          **concludes, based on a review of the results of the investigation**  
21          **conducted by the attorney general under section 12 of this chapter**  
22          **and the person's or entity's formal response, that the evidence**  
23          **amassed by the attorney general demonstrates that it is more likely**  
24          **than not that the person or entity is an affiliate of a foreign**  
25          **terrorist organization.**

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

28               **(1) be denied all state funds provided by any state agency,**  
29               **including:**

- 30                       **(A) funding;**  
31                       **(B) benefits; or**  
32                       **(C) other forms of support;**

33               **received or provided, directly or indirectly, from the state;**

34               **(2) be prohibited from entering into any contract with the**  
35               **state; and**

36               **(3) be denied any:**

- 37                       **(A) employment;**  
38                       **(B) tax benefit;**  
39                       **(C) privilege; or**  
40                       **(D) other form of a state benefit or privilege, whether**  
41                       **provided or received directly or indirectly.**

42               **(b) No public university, community college, school district, or**

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1 other recipient of state funds may, after the date of the governor  
 2 designates that a person or entity is an affiliate of a foreign  
 3 terrorist organization under section 13 of this chapter, knowingly  
 4 provide a grant, contract, loan, tax credit, tax exemption, or other  
 5 financial benefit to an affiliate of a foreign terrorist organization.

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

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

10 (1) the governor determines that the designation was  
 11 erroneous; or

12 (2) the governor determines that the actions of the person or  
 13 entity that support the designation occurred more than five  
 14 (5) years ago.

15 Sec. 16. (a) If the attorney general has ~~reasonable~~ probable  
 16 cause to believe a violation of this chapter has occurred, the  
 17 attorney general may bring an action in the name of the state in  
 18 connection with a violation of this chapter to seek:

19 (1) appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief;

20 (2) the costs and expenses of the suit, including reasonable  
 21 attorney's fees and expert fees; and

22 (3) a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars  
 23 (\$500).

24 (b) If a violation of this chapter is committed intentionally, or  
 25 constitutes a second or subsequent violation, the attorney general  
 26 may bring a civil action to recover a civil penalty of not more than  
 27 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation, in addition to the  
 28 relief provided in subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2).

29 (c) A civil penalty collected under this chapter shall be  
 30 deposited in the state general fund.

31 Sec. 17. The attorney general may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2  
 32 to carry out this chapter.

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