

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 394 (HB 686)

2025 Regular Session

Owen

Existing federal law provides for the Foreign Agents Registration Act (22 U.S.C. §611-621) which requires the registration of agents of adverse nations and foreign terror organizations with the U.S. Attorney General.

Existing law provides for and requires the registration with the Board of Ethics of lobbyists who engage in legislative, executive branch, and local lobbying in La. and requires lobbyists to file certain disclosures with the Board of Ethics.

New law further provides that a person who registers as a lobbyist pursuant to existing law and who lobbies on behalf of a foreign adversary or foreign corporation, as defined in new law, shall also file a disclosure with the Board of Ethics pursuant to new law.

New law defines "foreign adversary" as an individual, corporation, or government identified as a foreign adversary in existing federal law (15 CFR Part 791.4) and identified in the database maintained by the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, office of foreign assets control. Provides that "foreign adversary" does not include any entity that is the subject of, or covered by, a qualified divestiture pursuant to the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. Further provides that "foreign adversary" does not include any entity, or any corporate parent or affiliate of that entity, that holds an active registration on the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) SAM.gov federal procurement system.

New law defines "foreign corporation" as a corporation or any entity organized under the laws of a foreign government identified as a foreign adversary as provided in new law or having its principal place of business in the country of such a foreign adversary.

New law provides that any person who lobbies on behalf of a *foreign adversary* shall, before engaging in lobbying activity in La. on behalf of a foreign adversary, file certain specified information with the Board of Ethics, including, at a minimum:

- (1) The name and business address of the person.
- (2) The name of the foreign adversary represented by the person.
- (3) A description of the business activity of the foreign adversary represented by the person.
- (4) An identification of the matters on which the person expected to conduct lobbying on behalf of the foreign adversary.

New law provides that any person who lobbies on behalf of a *foreign corporation* shall, before engaging in lobbying activity in La. on behalf of a foreign adversary, file certain specified information with the Board of Ethics, including, at a minimum:

- (1) The name of the foreign corporation represented by the person.
- (2) The nation under whose laws the corporation is incorporated or organized.
- (3) The foreign corporation's principal place of business.
- (4) The foreign corporation's primary location if not in the U.S. which shall include the permanent mailing office address of the corporation.
- (5) A description of the business activity of the foreign corporation.
- (6) An identification of the matters on which the person expects to conduct lobbying business on behalf of the foreign corporation.

Existing law requires the Board of Ethics to establish and maintain access to a searchable electronic database available to the public via the internet.

New law further requires that the database contain reports, registration, and other information required to be filed pursuant to new law.

New law requires the Board of Ethics to provide information about disclosures required by new law through a web portal maintained on the board's website. Provides that the board may send to and receive data from government officials in other states in order to increase the transparency and registration compliance of agents of foreign adversaries that operate in multiple states. Further provides that the board may at any time make, prescribe, amend, and rescind such rules, regulations, and forms as it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of new law.

New law requires a person who has filed a disclosure with the board pursuant to new law to file a supplemental disclosure with the board if there are any changes from the original disclosure.

Effective December 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 24:57(3); Adds R.S. 24:51(9), 53(K), 53.1, and 53.2, R.S. 33:9664(H), and R.S. 49:74(I))