

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 686

2025 Regular Session

Owen

LOBBYING: Provides for the disclosure of foreign adversaries

Synopsis of Senate Amendments	
1.	Provides that "foreign adversary" shall not include any entity that holds an active registration on the United States General Services Administration's federal procurement system.
2.	Removes a part of the proposed definition of "foreign adversary" that included a corporation or any other entity that is organized under the laws of a foreign government that is identified as a foreign adversary pursuant to federal law.
3.	Adds provisions requiring disclosure by lobbyists who lobby on behalf of a foreign corporation that is headquartered or has its principal place of business in a country that is identified as a "foreign adversary" pursuant to federal law.
4.	Removes the requirement that lobbyists who lobby on behalf of a foreign adversary disclose their permanent residential or mailing address.
5.	Removes the requirement that lobbyists who lobby on behalf of a foreign adversary disclose the name and address of each person who owns at least five percent of the foreign adversary represented by the lobbyist.
6.	Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present 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.

Present law provides for the definitions of "board", "expenditure", "legislation", "lobbying", "lobbyist", "person", "public servant", and "principal duty" as used in present law provisions relative to legislative lobbying.

Proposed law adds the definition of "foreign adversary" and provides that "foreign adversary" means an individual or government identified as a foreign adversary in present federal law (15 CFR 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" shall 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 or any entity that holds an active registration on the United States General Services Administration's federal procurement system. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides for the registration with the Board of Ethics of lobbyists who engage in legislative, executive branch, and local lobbying in La.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that a person who registers as a lobbyist pursuant to present law and who lobbies on behalf of a foreign adversary, or on behalf of a foreign corporation that is headquartered in or has its principal place of business in a country that is identified as a foreign adversary shall also file a disclosure with the Board of Ethics pursuant to proposed law.

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

Proposed law retains present law and further requires that the database contain reports, registration, and other information required to be filed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed 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 office 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.

Proposed law provides that any person who lobbies on behalf of a foreign corporation or any entity whose headquarters or principal place of business is located in a nation or country identified in present federal law (15 CFR Part 7.4) shall disclose at a minimum, the following information:

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

Proposed law provides that the Board of Ethics shall post on its website on the internet a list of all persons who have failed to file or failed to timely file a disclosure pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the Board of Ethics shall provide information about foreign adversaries registered with the board 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 proposed law.

Proposed law requires a person who has filed a disclosure with the board pursuant to proposed 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))