

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 686

2025 Regular Session

Owen

June 12, 2025

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 686 by Representative Owen, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs (#2859) be rejected.
2. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Kleinpeter (#3096) be rejected.
3. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Miller (#3128) be rejected.
4. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "enact" delete the remainder of the line and insert "R.S. 24:51(9) and (10), 53(K), 53.1, and 53.2,"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 3, after "foreign" delete "adversaries;" and insert "adversaries and certain foreign corporations;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 4, after "foreign" and before "to provide" delete "adversary;" and insert "adversary and foreign corporation;"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, line 5, after "requirements" delete the remainder of the line and insert a semi-colon ";" and insert "to provide for exceptions;"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 1, line 10, after "reenacted and" delete the remainder of the line and at the beginning of line 11, delete "and 53.1" and insert "R.S. 24:51(9) and (10), 53(K), 53.1, and 53.2"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 1, delete line 15, and at the beginning of line 16, delete "(a) An individual, corporation, or government" and insert "(9)(a) 'Foreign adversary' means a foreign government or foreign non-governmental person"

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 1, line 17, after "adversary in" and before "and identified" delete "15 CFR 7.4(a)" and insert "15 CFR Part 791.4, as revised,"

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 2, delete lines 1 through 4 and insert the following:

"(b)(i) "Foreign adversary" shall not include any entity, or any corporate parent or affiliate of that entity, that holds an active registration on the United States General Services Administration's (GSA) SAM.gov federal procurement system."

AMENDMENT NO. 9

On page 2, at the beginning of line 5, delete "(c)" and insert "(ii)"

AMENDMENT NO. 10

On page 2, between lines 7 and 8 insert the following:

"(10) "Foreign corporation" means a corporation or other entity organized under the laws of a foreign government identified as a foreign adversary as provided in Paragraph (9) of this Section or having its principal place of business in the country of such a foreign adversary."

AMENDMENT NO. 11

On page 2, line 12, after "foreign" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 13 and insert "adversary or foreign corporation, as defined in R.S. 24:51, shall also file a disclosure as provided in R.S. 24:53.1 or 53.2, as applicable."

AMENDMENT NO. 12

On page 2, delete lines 19 and 20 and insert the following:

"(1) The name and business address of the person."

AMENDMENT NO. 13

On page 2, line 22, after "least" and before "percent" delete "five" and insert "thirty"

AMENDMENT NO. 14

On page 2, after line 27, insert the following:

"(6) Copies of all financial transactions, contracts, and agreements with the represented foreign adversary."

AMENDMENT NO. 15

On page 3, delete lines 1 through 3 and insert the following:

"B. No official of, or employee of, a foreign government shall be required to file a disclosure as provided in Subsection A of this Section for lobbying activity conducted on official business coordinated through an embassy or consulate of the foreign government for the purpose of diplomatic meetings."

AMENDMENT NO. 16

On page 3, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

"§53.2. Foreign corporations; disclosure

A. Any person who lobbies on behalf of a foreign corporation, as defined in R.S. 24:51, shall, before engaging in lobbying activity in Louisiana on behalf of a

foreign corporation, file a disclosure with the board on a form prescribed by the board, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

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

B. The board shall provide information about disclosures filed pursuant to this Section through a web portal maintained on the board's website. The portal shall contain the information about the registrant and the registrant's activities within the state. The board shall publish each disclosure filed pursuant to this Section on the board's website.

C. The board may send to and receive data from government officials in other states in order to increase the transparency and registration compliance of lobbyists of foreign corporations that operate in multiple states.

D. The board may promulgate rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act as necessary to carry out the provisions of this Section.

E. Any change in information previously submitted in a disclosure pursuant to this Section shall be reported to the board through a supplemental disclosure within ten days following the change."

#### AMENDMENT NO. 17

On page 4, line 2, after "adversary" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 3 and insert "or foreign corporation, as defined in R.S. 24:51, shall also file a disclosure as provided in R.S. 24:53.1 or 53.2, as applicable."

#### AMENDMENT NO. 18

On page 4, line 8, after "adversary" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 9 and insert "or foreign corporation, as defined in R.S. 24:51, shall also file a disclosure as provided in R.S. 24:53.1 or 53.2, as applicable."

#### AMENDMENT NO. 19

On page 4, at the end of line 10, insert "or foreign corporation"

#### AMENDMENT NO. 20

On page 4, line 13, change "December 1, 2025." to "January 1, 2026."

Respectfully submitted,

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Representative Charles Anthony Owen

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Senator Blake Miguez

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Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV

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Senator Gregory A. Miller

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Representative Les Farnum

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Senator Sam L. Jenkins Jr.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 686

2025 Regular Session

Owen

**Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House**

LOBBYING: Provides for the disclosure of foreign adversaries

**Report adopts Senate amendments to:**

1. Remove entities organized under the laws of a foreign adversary from the definition of "foreign adversary".
2. Exempt the disclosure of lobbying activities on behalf of foreign adversaries that hold an active registration with the U.S. General Services Administration.
3. Remove the requirement for a lobbyist to disclose his permanent residential or mailing address.
4. Add a separate disclosure required of lobbyists for activities conducted on behalf of a foreign corporation or entity located in a country identified as a foreign adversary.

**Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:**

1. Removed the requirement for a lobbyist to disclose the name and address of each person who owns at least 5% of the foreign adversary.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Provide a definition for "foreign corporation".
2. Require a lobbyist to disclose the name and address of each person who owns at least 30%, rather than 5%, of the represented foreign adversary.
3. Require a lobbyist to include in his disclosure copies of all financial transactions, contracts, and agreements with the represented foreign adversary.
4. Require a lobbyist to disclose his own name and office address in the disclosure of a represented foreign corporation.
5. Delete a requirement that the Board of Ethics post a list of lobbyists that fail to make the disclosure provided in proposed law.
6. Create an exception to the disclosure requirement for officials or employees of a foreign government for lobbying activity conducted on official business coordinated through an embassy or consulate of the foreign government for the purpose of diplomatic meetings.
7. Change the effective date from December 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

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 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.

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 foreign corporation, as defined in proposed law, shall also file a disclosure with the Board of Ethics pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law defines "foreign adversary" as an individual, corporation, or government identified as a foreign adversary in present 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. Proposed law 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. Proposed law further provides that "foreign adversary" shall not include any entity, or any corporate parent or affiliate of that entity, that holds an active registration on the United States General Services Administration's (GSA) SAM.gov federal procurement system.

Proposed 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 proposed law or having its principal place of business in the country of such a foreign adversary.

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 business address of the person.
- (2) The name of the foreign adversary represented by the person.
- (3) The name and address of each person who owns at least 30% of the foreign adversary represented by the person, if applicable.
- (4) A description of the business activity of the foreign adversary represented by the person.
- (5) An identification of the matters on which the person expected to conduct lobbying on behalf of the foreign adversary.
- (6) Copies of all financial transactions, contracts, and agreements with the represented foreign adversary.

Proposed 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 and business address of the person.
- (2) The name of the foreign corporation represented by the person.
- (3) The nation under whose laws the corporation is incorporated or organized.
- (4) The foreign corporation's principal place of business.

- (5) The foreign corporation's primary location if not in the United States which shall include the permanent mailing office address of the corporation.
- (6) A description of the business activity of the foreign corporation.
- (7) An identification of the matters on which the person expects to conduct lobbying business on behalf of the foreign corporation.

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 the Board of Ethics shall provide information about disclosures required by proposed 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 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 January 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 24:57(3); Adds R.S. 24:51(9) and (10), 53(K), 53.1, and 53.2, R.S. 33:9664(H), and R.S. 49:74(I))