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## DIGEST

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### 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))