
DIGEST

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HB 635 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Horton

Abstract: Provides relative to criminal activity committed by an agent of a foreign adversary or an agent of a foreign terrorist organization.

Proposed law provides for a statement of legislative intent.

Proposed law defines the terms "agent of a foreign adversary", "agent of a foreign terrorist organization", "constitutionally protected conduct", "foreign adversary", "foreign law", "foreign terrorist organization", and "transnational repression".

Proposed law prohibits an agent of a foreign adversary or agent of a foreign terrorist organization from committing any criminal offense that is a noncapital felony in the state of La. while knowingly acting at the direction of, on behalf of, or under the influence of a foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization with the intent to do any of the following:

- (1) Coerce a person to act on behalf of a foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization.
- (2) Coerce a person to leave the U.S. or cause another person to leave the U.S.
- (3) Cause a person to refrain from engaging in constitutionally protected conduct.
- (4) Retaliate against a person for engaging in constitutionally protected conduct.

Proposed law provides for penalties as follows:

- (1) If the underlying offense is punishable by imprisonment for a term of not more than five years, imprisonment with or without hard labor for an additional period of one year to be served consecutively to the sentence imposed for the underlying offense.
- (2) If the underlying offense is punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than five years but less than 15 years, imprisonment with or without hard labor for an additional period of two years to be served consecutively to the sentence imposed for the underlying offense.

Proposed law prohibits any person from intentionally engaging in the obstruction, detection, investigation, monitoring, or surveillance of another person or governmental entity with the intent to enforce or institute the prosecution of a foreign law in violation of the laws of the state of La. or of the U.S.

Proposed law provides for penalties as follows:

- (1) A maximum fine of \$10,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not less than three years nor more than six years, or both, if the offender was acting as an agent of a foreign adversary or an agent of a foreign terrorist organization at the time of the violation.
- (2) A maximum fine of \$5,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not less than two years nor more than four years, or both, if the offender was not acting as an agent of a foreign adversary or an agent of a foreign terrorist organization at the time of the violation.

Proposed law provides that any decision from a court, arbitrator, tribunal, or administrative agency that is based in whole or in part on foreign law is void and unenforceable in the state of La. if it denies a party a liberty, right, or privilege guaranteed by the Constitution of the U.S. or the Constitution of La.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Bureau of Investigation, on or before July 1, 2027, to provide or adopt a training program for transnational repression recognition and response. Further provides for methods of obtaining training and permits any updates for training to address emerging threats and specific information on tactics used by specific foreign adversaries or foreign terrorist organizations.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 14:391-391.3 and R.S. 40:2405.10)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Correct the reference to a federal citation.