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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require agents of certain foreign principals who engage in political activity in this state and foreign supported political organizations that engage in political activity in this state to register with the Secretary of State.

This bill would provide for the information that must be included on registration forms and require periodic registration updates.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to impose civil penalties for violations of this act.

This bill would authorize persons upon whom a civil penalty is imposed to appeal to the State Ethics Commission.

This bill would authorize the State Ethics Commission to reduce or set aside a civil penalty.

This bill would also define terms.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to political activity; to require certain agents of certain foreign principals and foreign supported



29 political organizations to register with the Secretary of  
30 State; to establish registration requirements; to authorize  
31 the Secretary of State to impose civil penalties; to establish  
32 registration requirements; to exempt certain entities; and to  
33 authorize the State Ethics Commission to hear appeals.

34 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

35 Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the following:

36 (1) The voters, residents, and policymakers of Alabama  
37 are entitled to transparency in the political and propaganda  
38 activities of organizations that may be controlled by or under  
39 the influence of foreign countries hostile to the interests of  
40 the United States and the State of Alabama.

41 (2) In an increasingly globalized world, determining  
42 whether an organization's political and propaganda activities  
43 are funded by these foreign interests is often difficult.

44 (3) Legislation is needed to ensure the transparency  
45 necessary to allow voters, residents, and policymakers to  
46 evaluate whether political and propaganda activities are  
47 funded by potentially hostile foreign actors.

48 (4) There are companies in the state that are owned or  
49 controlled by foreign principals and that are managed by  
50 Alabama residents and citizens. These companies employ  
51 hundreds of hardworking Alabamians. The Legislature  
52 acknowledges and appreciates these companies for their hard  
53 work and contributions to Alabama's economy.

54 Section 2. As used in this act, the following terms  
55 have the following meanings:

56 (1) AGENT OF A FOREIGN PRINCIPAL. Any person who acts



57 as an agent, employee, representative, or servant, or  
58 otherwise acts at the order, request, or under the direction  
59 or control of a foreign principal: (i) whose actions are  
60 financed in whole or in part by a foreign principal; and (ii)  
61 who engages in political activity.

62 (2) COMMISSION. The State Ethics Commission.

63 (3) FOREIGN COUNTRY. All of the following:

64 a. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

65 b. The Islamic Republic of Iran.

66 c. The People's Republic of China.

67 d. The Russian Federation.

68 (4) FOREIGN PRINCIPAL. Any of the following:

69 a. A government of a foreign country, a political party  
70 of a foreign country, or any member of a political party,  
71 body, or organization of a foreign country.

72 b. A nonresident alien of a foreign country.

73 c. A partnership, committee, association, corporation,  
74 limited liability company, limited liability partnership,  
75 trust, professional corporation, or any other combination of  
76 persons organized under the law of or having its principal  
77 place of business in a foreign country.

78 d. A domestic partnership, association, corporation,  
79 organization, or other combination of persons that is at least  
80 20 percent beneficially owned by a foreign country, a  
81 nonresident alien of a foreign country, or an entity organized  
82 under the laws of or having its principal place of business in  
83 a foreign country.

84 (5) FOREIGN SUPPORTED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. A



85 political organization or partnership, committee, association,  
86 corporation, limited liability company, limited liability  
87 partnership, trust, professional corporation, or any other  
88 combination of persons that has, within the past five calendar  
89 years, received money or other things of value from a foreign  
90 principal or an agent of a foreign principal and which engages  
91 in political activity. The term does not include an industry,  
92 trade, or professional association that exists to promote the  
93 interests of its members, or any affiliated organization.

94 (6) POLITICAL ACTIVITY. Any activity that is performed  
95 to influence any agency or public official of the state,  
96 county, or municipality, or any state or local political  
97 subdivision, or to influence the public within the state,  
98 relating to the formulation, adoption, or change in the  
99 policies or laws of the state or electing or opposing a  
100 candidate for state or local public office.

101 Section 3. (a) No person shall act as an agent of a  
102 foreign principal unless he or she has filed with the  
103 Secretary of State a true and complete registration statement  
104 as required by this act. Every person who becomes an agent of  
105 a foreign principal, within 10 days of becoming an agent,  
106 shall file with the Secretary of State a registration  
107 statement, under oath, on a form prescribed by the Secretary  
108 of State. The obligation of an agent of a foreign principal to  
109 file a registration statement shall continue from day to day,  
110 and termination of that status shall not relieve the agent  
111 from his or her obligation to file a registration statement  
112 for the period during which he or she was an agent of a



113 foreign principal. The registration statement shall include  
114 all of the following, which shall be regarded as material for  
115 the purposes of this section:

116 (1) The registrant's name, principal business address,  
117 and all other business addresses in the United States or  
118 elsewhere, and all residence addresses, if any.

119 (2) The status of the registrant as follows:

120 a. If an individual, his or her nationality.

121 b. If a partnership, the name, residence addresses, and  
122 nationality of each partner, as well as a true and complete  
123 copy of its articles of copartnership.

124 c. If an association, corporation, organization, or any  
125 other combination of individuals or entities, the name,  
126 residence addresses, and nationality of each director and  
127 officer and of each individual performing the functions of a  
128 director or officer, a true and complete copy of its charter,  
129 articles of incorporation, association, constitution, and  
130 bylaws and amendments thereto; a copy of every other  
131 instrument or document and a statement of the terms and  
132 conditions of every oral agreement relating to its  
133 organization, powers, and purposes, and a statement of its  
134 ownership and control.

135 (3) A comprehensive statement of the nature of the  
136 registrant's business, including a complete list of  
137 registrant's employees.

138 (4) A statement of the nature of the work of each  
139 foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting, assuming  
140 or purporting to act, or has agreed to act, the character of



141 the business, or other activities of every foreign principal.  
142 If a foreign principal is an entity other than a natural  
143 person, the statement shall also detail the ownership and  
144 control to which the foreign principal is supervised,  
145 directed, owned, controlled, financed, or subsidized, in whole  
146 or in part, by any government of a foreign country or foreign  
147 political party, or by any other foreign principal.

148 (5) The nature and amount of contributions, income,  
149 money, or things of value, if any, that the registrant has  
150 received within the preceding 60 days from each foreign  
151 principal, either as compensation or for disbursement or  
152 otherwise, and the form and time of each payment and from whom  
153 received.

154 (6) A detailed statement of every activity that the  
155 registrant is performing or is assuming or purporting or has  
156 agreed to perform for himself or herself or any other person  
157 other than a foreign principal and that requires registration  
158 pursuant to this act.

159 (7) With regard to any person other than a foreign  
160 principal for whom the registrant is acting, assuming or  
161 purporting to act, or has agreed to act under circumstances  
162 that would require his or her registration under this section,  
163 all of the following:

164 a. The name, business, and residence addresses, and if  
165 an individual, the nationality, of the person.

166 b. The nature and amount of contributions, income,  
167 money, or things of value, if any, that the registrant has  
168 received during the preceding 60 days from the person in



169 connection with any of the person's activities.

170 (8) A detailed statement of the money and other things  
171 of value spent or disposed of by the registrant during the  
172 preceding 60 days in furtherance of or in connection with  
173 activities that require the registrant's registration under  
174 this section and that have been undertaken by the registrant  
175 either as an agent of a foreign principal or for himself or  
176 herself or any other person or in connection with any  
177 activities relating to the registrant becoming an agent of the  
178 foreign principal.

179 (9) A detailed statement of any contributions of money  
180 or other things of value made by the registrant during the  
181 preceding 60 days to bring about the nomination or election of  
182 a candidate for any office or to bring about the approval or  
183 rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional  
184 amendment.

185 (10) Such other statements, information, or documents  
186 pertinent to the purposes of this section as the Secretary of  
187 State may from time to time require.

188 (b) Every agent of a foreign principal who has filed a  
189 registration statement required by subsection (a), within 30  
190 days after the expiration of each six-month period succeeding  
191 such filing, shall file with the Secretary of State a  
192 supplement thereto, under oath, on a form prescribed by the  
193 Secretary of State, which shall set forth with respect to the  
194 preceding six-month period such facts as the Secretary of  
195 State may deem necessary to make the information required  
196 under subsection (a) accurate, complete, and current with



197 respect to that period.

198 (c) An agent of a foreign principal shall update the  
199 information required by subsection (b) with the Secretary of  
200 State every 90 days.

201 (d) The registration statement shall be executed under  
202 oath as follows:

203 (1) If the registrant is an individual, by him or her.

204 (2) If the registrant is a partnership, by the majority  
205 of the members thereof.

206 (3) If the registrant is a person other than an  
207 individual or a partnership, by a majority of the officers  
208 thereof or persons performing the functions of officers or by  
209 a majority of the board of directors thereof or persons  
210 performing the functions of directors, if any.

211 (e) A registration statement or supplement required to  
212 be filed under this section shall be filed in electronic form,  
213 in addition to any other form that may be required by the  
214 Secretary of State.

215 Section 4. (a) No later than December 31 annually, each  
216 foreign supported political organization operating within the  
217 state shall register with the Secretary of State and provide  
218 all of the following information:

219 (1) The name of the foreign supported political  
220 organization, its business address, and the names, titles, and  
221 addresses of all officers and directors of the foreign  
222 supported political organization.

223 (2) If the foreign supported political organization is  
224 affiliated with or a chapter of a national organization, the



225 name of the national organization, its address, and the names  
226 and addresses of its officers and directors.

227 (3) A detailed statement of the money and other things  
228 of value spent or disposed of by the foreign supported  
229 political organization during the preceding calendar year in  
230 furtherance of or in connection with activities to influence  
231 any agency or public official, local government entity, or the  
232 public within the State of Alabama, including, but not limited  
233 to, activities related to formulating, adopting, or changing  
234 the policies or laws of this state or electing a candidate to  
235 local or state public office.

236 (4) A detailed statement of any expenditures of money  
237 or other things of value made by the foreign supported  
238 political organization within the prior calendar year.

239 (5) A detailed statement of all money or other things  
240 of value received by the foreign supported political  
241 organization from a foreign principal or an agent of a foreign  
242 principal during the preceding calendar year.

243 (b) A registered foreign supported organization shall  
244 update the information required by subsection (a) with the  
245 Secretary of State every 90 days.

246 Section 5. (a) Upon receipt of a complaint that an  
247 agent of a foreign principal or a foreign supported political  
248 organization has failed to comply with the registration and  
249 reporting requirements of this act, or upon its own  
250 determination, the Secretary of State shall investigate, and  
251 upon finding a violation, impose civil penalties of up to ten  
252 thousand dollars (\$10,000) for failure to timely file a



253 statement required by this act.

254 (b) If the Secretary of State finds that a violation  
255 was willful or a repeat violation of this act, the civil  
256 penalties shall be not less than ten thousand dollars  
257 (\$10,000) nor more than two hundred thousand dollars  
258 (\$200,000) per such violation.

259 Section 6. (a) Any person upon whom a civil penalty has  
260 been imposed pursuant to Section 5 may seek a review of the  
261 penalty by filing a written notice with the Secretary of State  
262 no later than 21 days after the date on which notification of  
263 the imposition of the penalty was sent. The Secretary of State  
264 shall refer the review to the State Ethics Commission.

265 (b) The commission may set aside or reduce a civil  
266 penalty upon a showing of good cause. The person seeking  
267 review shall bear the burden of proof.

268 Section 7. This act shall not apply to any entities  
269 that are the subject of, or covered by, a qualified  
270 divestiture under the Protecting Americans from Foreign  
271 Adversary Controlled Applications Act (Public Law 118-50, Div.  
272 H), including, but not limited to, any entity referenced in  
273 Executive Order 14352 issued by the President of the United  
274 States.

275 Section 8. This act shall become effective on October  
276 1, 2026.