

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 686 (Substitute for House Bill No. 511 by Representative Owen)

BY REPRESENTATIVES OWEN, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, DICKERSON,
EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, HORTON, SCHAMERHORN, SPELL, THOMPSON,
VENTRELLA, AND WILDER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

LOBBYING: Provides for the disclosure of foreign adversaries

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:57(3) and to enact R.S. 24:51(9), 53(K), and 53.1, R.S.

3 33:9664(H), and R.S. 49:74(I), relative to lobbying on behalf of foreign adversaries;

4 to provide for the definition of a foreign adversary; to provide for additional

5 lobbying disclosure requirements for a foreign adversary; to provide for penalties;

6 to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for an electronic database

7 administered by the board of ethics; to provide for data sharing and public access of

8 records; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 24:57(3) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 24:51(9), 53(K),

11 and 53.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §51. Definitions

13 When used in this Part:

14 * * *

15 (9) "Foreign adversary" means:

16 (a) An individual, corporation, or government identified as a foreign

17 adversary in 15 CFR 7.4(a) and identified in the database maintained by the United

18 States Department of the Treasury, office of foreign assets control.

(b) A corporation or any other entity organized under the laws of a foreign government identified as a foreign adversary as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or having its principal place of business in the country of such a foreign adversary.

(c) "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.

* * *

§53. Registration of lobbyists with the board; compilation of information

* * *

K. Any person who registers pursuant to this Part and who engages in lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary, as defined in R.S. 24:53.1 shall also register as provided in R.S. 24:53.1.

§53.1. Foreign adversaries; disclosure

A. Any person who lobbies on behalf of a foreign adversary as defined in R.S. 24:51(9) shall, before engaging in lobbying activity in Louisiana on behalf of a foreign adversary, file a disclosure with the board on a form prescribed by the board, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The name, permanent residential address or mailing address, and office
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 five percent 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, if applicable.

(5) An identification of the matters on which the person expects to conduct
lobbying on behalf of the foreign adversary.

B. 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 this Section.

C. 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.

D. 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.

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

F. 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.

* * *

§57. Administration

The board, in performance of its duties under this Part, shall:

* * *

(3)(a) Establish and maintain access to a searchable electronic database available to the public via the Internet.

(b) The database shall contain the reports, registration, and other information
required to be filed pursuant to this Part.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 33:9664(H) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§9664. Registration of lobbyists with the ethics board; compilation of information

* * *

1 H. Any person who registers pursuant to this Chapter and who engages in
2 lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary as defined in R.S. 24:53.1 shall also
3 register as provided in R.S. 24:53.1.

4 Section 3. R.S. 49:74(I) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 §74. Registration of lobbyists with the ethics board; compilation of information

6 * * *

7 I. Any person who registers pursuant to this Part and who engages in
8 lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary as defined in R.S. 24:53.1 shall also
9 register as provided in R.S. 24:53.1.

Section 4. Any person who is engaged in lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary on the effective date of this Act shall file a disclosure pursuant to this Act no later than thirty days following the effective date of this Act.

13 Section 5. This Act shall become effective on December 1, 2025.

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)]

HB 686 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Owen

Abstract: Requires a lobbyist who lobbies for a foreign adversary to disclose certain information concerning the foreign adversary.

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, corporation, or government identified as a foreign adversary in present federal law (15 CFR 7.4(a)) and identified in the database maintained by the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, office of foreign assets control. Further provides that "foreign adversary" means 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 "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 otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides for the registration of lobbyists 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 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, permanent residential address or mailing address, and office 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 five percent of the foreign adversary represented by the person.
- (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.

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), and 53.1, R.S. 33:9664(H), and R.S. 49:74(I))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add an exception to the definition of "foreign adversary".

2. Require disclosure of the name and address of each person who owns at least 5% of a foreign adversary represented by the person if applicable.
3. Require the Board of Ethics to 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.
4. Require any person who is engaged in lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary on the effective date of proposed law to file a disclosure pursuant to proposed law no later than 30 days following the effective date of proposed law.
5. Provide that the address required in the disclosure may be either a residential or mailing address.
6. Make technical changes.