

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1800

5 By: Representative McAlindon  
6 By: Senator M. McKee  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DISCLOSURE FOR  
10 CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE BY AGENTS OF  
11 A FOREIGN PRINCIPAL; TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE  
12 ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED FROM INITIATED ACT 1 OF  
13 1990; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
14  
15

## Subtitle

17 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DISCLOSURE  
18 FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO REQUIRE  
19 DISCLOSURE BY AGENTS OF A FOREIGN  
20 PRINCIPAL; AND TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE  
21 ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED FROM  
22 INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990.  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
25

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-217(g)(1) - (3), concerning the  
27 creation of the Arkansas Ethics Commission and resulting from Initiated Act 1  
28 of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

29 (g) The commission shall have the authority to:

30 (1) Under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201  
31 et seq., promulgate reasonable rules to implement and administer the  
32 requirements of this subchapter, as well as § 7-1-114 [repealed]; the  
33 Disclosure Act for Public Initiatives, Referenda, and Measures Referred to  
34 Voters, § 7-9-401 et seq.; § 19-11-718; § 21-8-301 et seq.; the Disclosure  
35 Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, § 21-8-401 et seq., § 21-8-  
36 601 et seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and § 21-8-801 et seq.; § 21-8-901 et seq.;



1 § 21-8-1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et seq.; § 25-1-125; and Arkansas  
 2 Constitution, Article 19, §§ 28-30; and to govern procedures before the  
 3 commission, matters of commission operations, and all investigative and  
 4 disciplinary procedures and proceedings;

5 (2) Issue advisory opinions and guidelines on the requirements  
 6 of § 6-24-101 et seq.; § 7-1-103(a)(1)-(4), (6), and (7); § 7-1-114  
 7 [repealed]; this subchapter; the Disclosure Act for Public Initiatives,  
 8 Referenda, and Measures Referred to Voters, § 7-9-401 et seq.; § 19-11-718; §  
 9 21-8-301 et seq.; the Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local  
 10 Officials, § 21-8-401 et seq., § 21-8-601 et seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and §  
 11 21-8-801 et seq.; § 21-8-901 et seq.; § 21-8-1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et  
 12 seq.; § 25-1-125; and Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, §§ 28-30;

13 (3) After a citizen complaint has been submitted to the  
 14 commission, investigate alleged violations of § 6-24-101 et seq.; § 7-1-  
 15 103(a)(1)-(4), (6), and (7); § 7-1-114 [repealed]; this subchapter; the  
 16 Disclosure Act for Public Initiatives, Referenda, and Measures Referred to  
 17 Voters, § 7-9-401 et seq.; § 19-11-718; § 21-1-401 et seq.; § 21-8-301 et  
 18 seq.; the Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, § 21-8-  
 19 401 et seq., § 21-8-601 et seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and § 21-8-801 et seq.;  
 20 § 21-8-901 et seq.; § 21-8-1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et seq.; § 25-1-125; and  
 21 Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, §§ 28-30; and render findings and  
 22 disciplinary action thereon;

23  
 24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-218(a)(1), concerning citizen  
 25 complaints filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission and resulting from  
 26 Initiated Act 1 of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

27 (a)(1) Any citizen may file a complaint with the Arkansas Ethics  
 28 Commission against a person covered by this subchapter, by § 6-24-101 et  
 29 seq.; § 7-1-103(a)(1)-(4), (6), or (7); § 7-1-114 [repealed]; the Disclosure  
 30 Act for Public Initiatives, Referenda, and Measures Referred to Voters, § 7-  
 31 9-401 et seq.; § 21-1-401 et seq.; § 21-8-301 et seq.; the Disclosure Act for  
 32 Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, § 21-8-401 et seq., § 21-8-601 et  
 33 seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and § 21-8-801 et seq.; § 21-8-901 et seq.; § 21-8-  
 34 1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et seq.; § 25-1-125; and Arkansas Constitution,  
 35 Article 19, §§ 28-30, for an alleged violation of the subchapters or  
 36 sections. For purposes of this subdivision (a)(1), the Arkansas Ethics

1 Commission shall be considered a citizen.

2  
3 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-6-218(b)(1)(A), concerning citizen  
4 complaints filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission and resulting from  
5 Initiated Act 1 of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

6 (b)(1)(A) Upon a complaint stating facts constituting an alleged  
7 violation signed under penalty of perjury by any person, the Arkansas Ethics  
8 Commission shall investigate the alleged violation of this subchapter or § 6-  
9 24-101 et seq.; § 7-1-103(a)(1)-(4), (6), or (7); § 7-1-114 [repealed]; the  
10 Disclosure Act for Public Initiatives, Referenda, and Measures Referred to  
11 Voters, § 7-9-401 et seq.; § 21-1-401 et seq.; § 21-8-301 et seq.; the  
12 Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, § 21-8-401 et  
13 seq., § 21-8-601 et seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and § 21-8-801 et seq.; § 21-8-  
14 901 et seq.; § 21-8-1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et seq.; § 25-1-125; and  
15 Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, §§ 28-30.

16  
17 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-6-218(b)(4), concerning citizen  
18 complaints filed with the Arkansas Ethics Commission and resulting from  
19 Initiated Act 1 of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

20 (4) If the Arkansas Ethics Commission finds a violation of this  
21 subchapter; § 6-24-101 et seq.; § 7-1-103(a)(1)-(4), (6), or (7); § 7-1-114  
22 [repealed]; § 21-1-401 et seq.; § 21-8-301 et seq.; the Disclosure Act for  
23 Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, § 21-8-401 et seq., § 21-8-601 et  
24 seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and § 21-8-801 et seq.; § 21-8-901 et seq.; § 21-8-  
25 1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et seq.; § 25-1-125; or Arkansas Constitution,  
26 Article 19, §§ 28-30, then the Arkansas Ethics Commission shall do one (1) or  
27 more of the following, unless good cause be shown for the violation:

28 (A) Issue a public letter of caution or warning or  
29 reprimand;

30 (B)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 7-6-202, 7-9-  
31 409, 21-8-403, ~~and~~ 21-8-903, and 21-8-1105, impose a fine of not less than  
32 fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than three thousand five hundred dollars  
33 (\$3,500) for negligent or intentional violation of this subchapter; § 6-24-  
34 101 et seq.; § 7-1-114 [repealed]; the Disclosure Act for Public Initiatives,  
35 Referenda, and Measures Referred to Voters, § 7-9-401 et seq.; § 21-8-301 et  
36 seq.; the Disclosure Act for Lobbyists and State and Local Officials, § 21-8-

1 401 et seq., § 21-8-601 et seq., § 21-8-701 et seq., and § 21-8-801 et seq.;  
 2 § 21-8-901 et seq.; § 21-8-1001 et seq.; § 21-8-1101 et seq.; § 25-1-125; or  
 3 Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, §§ 28-30.

4 (ii) A fine for violating § 7-1-114 [repealed]†  
 5 shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

6 (iii) The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall adopt  
 7 rules governing the imposition of such fines in accordance with the  
 8 provisions of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

9 (iv) All moneys received by the Arkansas Ethics  
 10 Commission in payment of fines shall be deposited into the State Treasury as  
 11 general revenues;

12 (C) Order the respondent to file or amend a statutorily  
 13 required disclosure form; or

14 (D)(i) Report its finding, along with such information and  
 15 documents as it deems appropriate, and make recommendations to the proper law  
 16 enforcement authorities.

17 (ii) When exercising the authority provided in this  
 18 subdivision (b)(4), the Arkansas Ethics Commission is not required to make a  
 19 finding of a violation of the laws under its jurisdiction.

20  
 21 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 21, Chapter 8, is amended to add an  
 22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23  
 24 Subchapter 11 — Disclosure by Agents of a Foreign Principal or a  
 25 Foreign-supported Political Organization

26  
 27 21-8-1101. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) The voters, citizens, and policymakers of this state are  
 30 entitled to transparency in the political and propaganda activities of  
 31 organizations that may be controlled by or under the influence of foreign  
 32 countries hostile to the interests of this state and of the United States;

33 (2) In an increasingly globalized world, determining whether an  
 34 organization's political and propaganda activities are funded by hostile  
 35 foreign interests is often difficult; and

36 (3) Legislation is needed to ensure the transparency necessary

1 to allow voters, citizens, and policymakers to evaluate whether political and  
2 propaganda activities are funded by potentially hostile foreign actors.

3  
4 21-8-1102. Definitions.

5 As used in this subchapter:

6 (1) "Agent of a foreign principal" means:

7 (A) A person who acts as an agent, employee,  
8 representative, or servant, or otherwise acts at the order, request, or under  
9 the direction or control of a foreign principal;

10 (B) A person whose actions are financed in whole or in  
11 part by a foreign principal; and

12 (C) A person who engages in political activity;

13 (2) "Foreign principal" means:

14 (A) A government of a foreign country, a political party  
15 of a foreign country, or any member of a political party of a foreign  
16 country;

17 (B) A nonresident alien of a foreign country;

18 (C) A partnership, association, corporation, organization,  
19 or other combination of persons organized under the law of or having its  
20 principal place of business in a foreign country; or

21 (D) A domestic partnership, association, corporation,  
22 organization, or other combination of persons that is at least twenty percent  
23 (20%) beneficially owned by:

24 (i) A foreign government;

25 (ii) A nonresident alien of a foreign country; or

26 (iii) An entity organized under the laws of or  
27 having its principal place of business in a foreign country;

28 (3) "Foreign-supported political organization" means a political  
29 party or a domestic partnership, association, corporation, organization, or  
30 any other combination of persons that has, within the past five (5) calendar  
31 years, received money or other things of value from a foreign principal or an  
32 agent of a foreign principal and that engages in political activity;

33 (4) "Hostile foreign nation" means the:

34 (A) People's Republic of China;

35 (B) Russian Federation;

36 (C) Democratic People's Republic of Korea; or

1                   (D) Islamic Republic of Iran; and

2                   (5) "Political activity" means an activity that is performed to  
3 influence an agency or public official of this state, a local government  
4 entity within this state, or the public within this state, with reference to:

5                   (A) Formulating, adopting, or changing the policies or  
6 laws of this state; or

7                   (B) Electing or opposing a candidate for local or state  
8 public office.

9  
10           21-8-1103. Transparency in representation of foreign principals.

11           (a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a person shall  
12 not act as an agent of a foreign principal unless the person has filed a true  
13 and complete registration statement and supplements with the Arkansas Ethics  
14 Commission as required by this subchapter.

15           (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who  
16 becomes an agent of a foreign principal shall file a registration statement  
17 under oath with the commission within ten (10) days of the person's becoming  
18 an agent of a foreign principal.

19           (3) The obligation of an agent of a foreign principal to file a  
20 registration statement, after the tenth day of becoming an agent of a foreign  
21 principal, shall continue from day to day, and termination of status as an  
22 agent of a foreign principal shall not relieve the agent of a foreign  
23 principal from the obligation to file a registration statement for the period  
24 during which he or she was an agent of a foreign principal.

25           (b) The registration statement required under this section shall  
26 include the following:

27                   (1) The registrant's:

28                           (A) Name;

29                           (B) Principal business address;

30                           (C) Other business addresses in the United States or  
31 elsewhere; and

32                           (D) Residence addresses, if any;

33                   (2) A comprehensive statement of the nature of the registrant's  
34 business;

35                   (3)(A) A statement of the nature of the work of each foreign  
36 principal for whom the registrant is acting, assuming, or purporting to act

1 or has agreed to act, and the character of the business or other activities  
2 of each foreign principal.

3 (B) If the foreign principal is not a natural person, the  
4 registration statement shall also detail the degree to which the foreign  
5 principal is supervised, directed, owned, controlled, financed, or subsidized  
6 in whole or in part by any:

7 (i) Government of a foreign country or foreign  
8 political party; or

9 (ii) Other foreign principal;

10 (4) The nature and amount of contributions, income, money, or  
11 other thing of value, if any, that the registrant has received within the  
12 preceding sixty (60) days from the foreign principal, either as compensation  
13 or for disbursement or otherwise, and the form and time of the payment and  
14 from whom the payment was received;

15 (5) A detailed statement of every activity that the registrant  
16 is performing, assuming, purporting, or has agreed to perform for himself or  
17 herself or any other person other than a foreign principal and that requires  
18 his or her registration under this subchapter;

19 (6) The name, business, and residence addresses, and if an  
20 individual, the nationality, of any person other than a foreign principal for  
21 whom the registrant is acting, assuming, or purporting to act or has agreed  
22 to act under the circumstances that require registration under this  
23 subchapter;

24 (7) The nature and amount of contributions, income, money, or  
25 other thing of value, if any, that the registrant has received during the  
26 preceding sixty (60) days from each person in connection with any of the  
27 activities referred to in subdivision (b)(6) of this section;

28 (8) A detailed statement of the money or other thing of value  
29 spent or disposed of by the registrant during the preceding sixty (60) days  
30 in furtherance of or in connection with activities that:

31 (A) Require the registration under this subchapter; and

32 (B) Have been undertaken by the registrant either as an  
33 agent of a foreign principal or for himself or herself or any other person or  
34 in connection with any activities relating to the registrant's becoming an  
35 agent of a foreign principal;

36 (9) A detailed statement of any contributions of money or other

1 thing of value made by the registrant during the preceding sixty (60) days  
2 to:

3 (A) Bring about the nomination or election of a candidate  
4 for any office;

5 (B) Bring about the recall of a public officer holding  
6 elective office;

7 (C) Oppose the recall of a public officer holding elective  
8 office; or

9 (D) Bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of  
10 any proposed constitutional amendment, a statewide referendum, or a proposed  
11 initiated act or ordinance that is to appear on the ballot in this state or  
12 in a county or a municipal election in this state; and

13 (10) Any other statements, information, or documents that the  
14 commission may require.

15 (c) A registered agent of a foreign principal under this subchapter  
16 shall update the registration statement required under this section no less  
17 frequently than quarterly.

18  
19 21-8-1104. Transparency in foreign-supported political organizations.

20 (a) No later than January 31, 2026, and each following year, each  
21 foreign-supported political organization shall register with the Arkansas  
22 Ethics Commission and provide the following information:

23 (1) The name of the foreign-supported political organization,  
24 its business address, and the names, titles, and addresses of all officers  
25 and directors of the foreign-supported political organization;

26 (2) If the foreign-supported political organization is  
27 affiliated with or a chapter of a national organization, the name of the  
28 national organization, its address, and the names and addresses of its  
29 officers and directors;

30 (3) A detailed statement of any expenditures of money or other  
31 things of value made by the foreign-supported political organization within  
32 the prior calendar year to influence an agency or public official of this  
33 state, a local government entity within this state, or the public within this  
34 state, with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the policies or  
35 laws of this state or electing a candidate to local or state public office;  
36 and



1           (4) A detailed statement of all money or other thing of value  
 2 received by the foreign-supported political organization from a foreign  
 3 principal or an agent of a foreign principal during the prior calendar year.

4           (b) A foreign-supported political organization under this subchapter  
 5 shall update the registration statement required under this section no less  
 6 frequently than quarterly.

7  
 8           21-8-1105. Penalties for violation.

9           (a) Upon receipt of a complaint that an agent of a foreign principal  
 10 or a foreign-supported political organization has failed to comply with the  
 11 registration and reporting requirements of this subchapter, or upon its own  
 12 determination, the Arkansas Ethics Commission may investigate and assess  
 13 penalties for the violation of this subchapter.

14           (b) The commission may assess the following civil penalties:

15                 (1) For any violation of this subchapter, up to five hundred  
 16 dollars (\$500) per violation; and

17                 (2) For willful or repeated violations of this subchapter, up to  
 18 two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per violation.

19           (c) The commission may assess the following civil penalties for  
 20 willful or repeated violations of this subchapter in which the foreign  
 21 principal involves a hostile foreign nation:

22                 (1) Up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation;  
 23 and

24                 (2) An order of debarment against the foreign principal and the:

25                         (A) Foreign agent; or

26                         (B) Foreign-supported political organization.

27           (d) The commission may refer any matter involving a violation of this  
 28 subchapter to the:

29                 (1) Attorney General for further civil action; or

30                 (2) Prosecuting attorney for criminal action.

31  
 32           21-8-1106. Rules.

33           The Arkansas Ethics Commission shall promulgate rules necessary to:

34                 (1) Create and maintain registration statement forms as  
 35 described under this subchapter; and

36                 (2) Implement this subchapter.