

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
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4

As Engrossed: H4/1/25

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 A
11 REPRESENTATIVE OF A NON-UNITED STATES ENTITY; TO
12 AMEND PORTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE THAT RESULTED
13 FROM INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DISCLOSURE
17 FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE; TO REQUIRE
18 DISCLOSURE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF A NON-
19 UNITED STATES ENTITY; AND TO AMEND
20 PORTIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE THAT
21 RESULTED FROM INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1990.
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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32 requirements of this subchapter, as well as § 7-1-114 [repealed]; the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7 [repealed]; this subchapter; the Disclosure Act for Public Initiatives,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.

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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 Representatives of a Non-United States*
25 *Entity or a Non-United States-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) "Hostile foreign nation" means the:

7 (A) People's Republic of China;

8 (B) Russian Federation;

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

10 (D) Islamic Republic of Iran;

11 (2) "Non-United States entity" means:

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

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

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

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

22 (i) A foreign government;

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

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

26 (3) "Non-United States-supported political organization" means a
27 political party or a domestic partnership, association, corporation,
28 organization, or any other combination of persons that has, within the past
29 five (5) calendar years, received money or other things of value from a non-
30 United States entity or a representative of a non-United States entity and
31 that engages in political activity;

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

35 (A) Formulating, adopting, or changing the policies or
36 laws of this state; or

1 (B) Electing or opposing a candidate for local or state
2 public office, not including campaign donations; and

3 (5) "Representative of a non-United States entity" means:

4 (A) A person whose actions are financed in whole or in
5 part by a non-United States entity; and

6 (B) A person who engages in political activity.

7
8 21-8-1103. Transparency in representation of non-United States
9 entities.

10 (a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a person shall
11 not act as a representative of a non-United States entity unless the person
12 has filed a true and complete registration statement and supplements with the
13 Secretary of State as required by this subchapter.

14 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who
15 becomes a representative of a non-United States entity shall file a
16 registration statement under oath with the Secretary of State within ten (10)
17 days of the person's becoming a representative of a non-United States entity.

18 (3) The obligation of a representative of a non-United States
19 entity to file a registration statement, after the tenth day of becoming a
20 representative of a non-United States entity, shall continue from day to day,
21 and termination of status as a representative of a non-United States entity
22 shall not relieve the representative of a non-United States entity from the
23 obligation to file a registration statement for the period during which he or
24 she was a representative of a non-United States entity.

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 non-United
36 States entity for which the registrant is acting, assuming, or purporting to

1 act or has agreed to act, and the character of the business or other
2 activities of each non-United States entity.

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

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

9 (ii) Other non-United States entity; and

10 (4) Any other statements, information, or documents that the
11 Secretary of State may require.

12 (c) A registered representative of a non-United States entity under
13 this subchapter shall update the registration statement required under this
14 section no less frequently than quarterly.

15
16 21-8-1104. Transparency in non-United States-supported political
17 organizations.

18 (a) No later than January 31, 2026, and each following year, each non-
19 United States-supported political organization shall register with the
20 Secretary of State and provide the following information:

21 (1) The name of the non-United States-supported political
22 organization, its business address, and upon request the names, titles, and
23 addresses of all officers and directors of the non-United States-supported
24 political organization;

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

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

36 (4) A detailed statement of all money or other thing of value

1 received by the non-United States-supported political organization from a
2 non-United States entity or a representative of a non-United States entity
3 during the prior calendar year.

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

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

9 (a) Upon receipt of a complaint that a representative of a non-United
10 States entity or a non-United States-supported political organization has
11 failed to comply with the registration and reporting requirements of this
12 subchapter, or upon his or her own determination, the Secretary of State may
13 investigate and assess penalties for the violation of this subchapter.

14 (b) The Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State may assess the following civil penalties
20 for willful or repeated violations of this subchapter in which the non-United
21 States entity 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 non-United States entity

25 and the:

26 (A) Representative of the non-United States entity; or

27 (B) Non-United States-supported political organization.

28 (d) The Secretary of State may refer any matter involving a violation
29 of this subchapter to the:

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

31 (2) Prosecuting attorney for criminal action.

32
33 21-8-1106. Rules.

34 The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules necessary to:

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

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(2) Implement this subchapter.

/s/McAlindon