

Tab 2	SB 1178 by Grall (CO-INTRODUCERS) Avila; Similar to H 00905 Foreign Influence					
226318	A	S	LFAV	EE, Grall	Delete L.192 - 589:	01/28 12:05 PM
Tab 1	SB 1622 by Rodriguez; Identical to H 01369 Penalties for Late-filed Disclosures or Statements of Financial Interests					

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
Senator Gaetz, Chair
Senator Bernard, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Gaetz, Chair; Senator Bernard, Vice Chair; Senators Avila, Bradley, Garcia, Grall, Polsky, and Rouson

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 1622 Rodriguez (Identical H 1369)	Penalties for Late-filed Disclosures or Statements of Financial Interests; Prohibiting the assessment of a fine for a reporting person's first late filing of a disclosure or statement of financial interests if certain conditions are met, etc. EE 01/28/2026 Favorable CA RC	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0

2	SB 1178 Grall (Similar H 905)	Foreign Influence; Requiring agents of foreign countries of concern and foreign-supported political organizations to register with the Division of Elections; requiring periodic updates by such agents and organizations; defining the terms "designated foreign terrorist organization" and "foreign country of concern"; prohibiting a governmental entity from entering into certain contracts with certain entities owned or partially owned by foreign sources of concern or affiliated with a foreign country of concern, etc. EE 01/28/2026 Fav/CS JU AP	Fav/CS Yeas 7 Nays 0
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TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Senate Confirmation Hearing: A public hearing will be held for consideration of the below-named executive appointments to the offices indicated.			
St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority			
3	Dedge, Gerald, Jr. (St. Augustine)	01/04/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Dipola, Mario (Ponte Vedra Beach)	01/01/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Primrose, Nicholas (St. Augustine)	01/01/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Greater Orlando Aviation Authority			
4	James, Jason (Apopka)	04/16/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Ethics and Elections

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Board of Trustees of Eastern Florida State College			
5	Zonka, Kristine ()	05/31/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of College of Central Florida			
6	Juarez, Jose A. (Ocala)	05/31/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of Lake-Sumter State College			
7	Morris, Timothy (Leesburg)	05/31/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota			
8	Deckard, Lon (Sarasota)	05/31/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade College			
9	Bileca, Michael (Miami)	05/31/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Diaz, Jose Felix (Coral Gables)	05/31/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of North Florida College			
10	McWaters, Michael Steven (Live Oak)	05/31/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of Palm Beach State College			
11	Caruso, Tracy Lee ()	05/31/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of Pasco-Hernando State College			
12	Bell, Ralph E. (Brooksville)	05/31/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Wilson, Kirk E. (Brooksville)	05/31/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of Polk State College			
13	Lester, Charles S. ()	05/31/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Troutman, Ashley C. (Lakeland)	05/31/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees of Tallahassee State College			
14	Brown, Monesia (Tallahassee)	05/31/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority			
15	Powell, Cody (Riverview)	07/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Ethics and Elections

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Florida Inland Navigation District			
16	Blow, John Carl (St. Augustine)	01/09/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Boehning, Stephen W. (Vero Beach)	01/09/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Davenport, James "Buddy" (New Smyrna Beach)	01/09/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Morgan, Thomas A. (Cocoa)	01/09/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Tampa Port Authority			
17	Conner, William Theodore (Tampa)	11/25/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Florida Prepaid College Board			
18	Bayliss, Slater (Tallahassee)	06/30/2028	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Florida Transportation Commission			
19	Lastra, Alex (Miami)	09/30/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, Florida A & M University			
20	Crossman, John M. (Orlando)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, Florida Atlantic University			
21	McCleneghen, Joseph Scott (Boca Raton)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Stilley, Samantha (Jupiter)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, Florida State University			
22	Weisheyer, Timothy (Orlando)	01/06/2030	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, New College of Florida			
23	Karp, Lance (Sarasota)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, Florida Polytechnic University			
24	Peace, Eliot B. ()	07/15/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
Board of Trustees, University of South Florida			
25	Griffin, Michael E. (Tampa)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Ethics and Elections

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Board of Trustees, University of West Florida			
26	Patel, Kashane Jay (Pensacola)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0
	Perkins-Gilley, Janice (Molino)	01/06/2031	Recommend Confirm Yeas 6 Nays 0

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
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Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: CS/SB 1178

INTRODUCER: Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Foreign Influence

DATE: January 29, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Biehl	Roberts	EE	Fav/CS
2.			JU	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1178 creates a “Foreign Interference Restriction and Enforcement Act,” which amends and establishes numerous statutory provisions to reduce interference and influence by foreign countries of concern. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands the definition of “foreign source of concern” to also include a designated foreign terrorist organization or an agent acting on behalf of such organization.
- Creates a state-level framework for the registration of agents and organizations associated with foreign countries of concern and prescribes penalties for its violation.
- Expands restrictions on gifts to specified public officials, public employees, and candidates, and requires ethics training for specified public officials to include information on foreign countries of concern and their influence.
- Strengthens prohibitions on government contracting and procurement with vendors connected to foreign countries of concern.
- Prohibits the state protocol officer from encouraging a sister city or sister state affiliation with a foreign country of concern or its subdivision.
- Requires the Department of State to quarterly publish on its website specified information on all foreign consulate offices in Florida and all sister city and sister state affiliations.
- Revises provisions governing Florida linkage institutes to remove the Florida-China Institute from the list of authorized institutes, repeal the limited exemption for in-state residency tuition requirements, and prohibit a linkage institute from entering into an agreement or participate in activities with a foreign country of concern or any organization in such country.

- Expands a provision prohibiting specified state agencies or political subdivisions from entering an agreement or accepting a grant from a foreign country of concern under specified circumstances to instead make it a blanket prohibition against such agreements or grants.
- Creates a new section of law governing the protection of state critical infrastructure facilities.
- Reclassifies criminal offenses committed for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of such government or organization.
- Criminalizes the unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.
- Revises references to definitions of “foreign country of concern.”

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Influence Operations by Foreign Countries of Concern

Reports in recent years by national intelligence agencies and civilian interest groups describe ongoing efforts by foreign governments hostile to United States interests to influence federal, state, and local government policy, as well as to directly attack U.S. infrastructure. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Manipulation by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) of relationships with government and business leaders at the state and local levels to expand support for PRC policies and to pressure the federal government for policies favorable to the PRC’s geopolitical interests.¹
- Exploitation by the Chinese Communist Party of U.S. university partnerships to advance China’s civilian repression and military goals.²
- Russian use of influence operations and cyberattacks to create opportunities to advance its interests.³

Current Statutes

For statutory law relating to the bill’s provisions, see “Effect of Proposed Changes.”

¹ “Safeguarding Our Future: Protecting Government and Business Leaders at the U.S. State and Local Level from People’s Republic of China Influence Operations,” The National Intelligence and Security Center, July 2022, available at https://www.dni.gov/files/NCSC/documents/SafeguardingOurFuture/PRC_Subnational_Influence-06-July-2022.pdf (last visited January 26, 2026).

² “Joint Institutes, Divided Loyalties: How the Chinese Communist Party Exploits U.S. Partnerships to Empower China’s Military and Repression,” The Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, September 2025, available at <https://chinaselectcommittee.house.gov/media/reports/joint-institutes-divided-loyalties> (last visited January 26, 2026).

³ “Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community,” Office of the Director of National Intelligence, March 2025, available at <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/ATA-2025-Unclassified-Report.pdf> (last visited January 26, 2026).

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Statutory Definitions related to Foreign Countries of Concern (Sections 5, 9, and 10)

Foreign Country of Concern

Current law provides a number of definitions for “foreign country of concern.” Definitions related to this bill, which are largely identical, include:

- For restrictions on government contracting (s. 287.138, F.S.) – “The People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity *of* significant control of such foreign country of concern [emphasis added].”
- For restrictions on conveyances of land to foreign entities (s. 692.201, F.S.) – a definition identical to that in s. 287.138, F.S.
- For international cultural agreements (s. 288.860, F.S.) – “The People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity *under* significant control of such foreign country of concern [emphasis added].”
- For foreign gifts to and contracts of state agencies and political subdivisions (s. 286.101, F.S.) – a definition identical to that in s. 288.860, F.S.

Additional definitions include:

- For prohibited use of internet applications from foreign countries of concern (s. 112.22, F.S.) – a definition identical to that in s. 288.860, F.S.
- For laboratory services provided by the Department of Health (s. 381.0202, F.S.) – “The People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of such foreign country of concern.”
- For a restriction on persons or entities with controlling interests in specified health care facilities (s. 408.810, F.S.) – a definition identical to that in s. 381.0202, F.S.

Foreign Source of Concern

Section 496.404(14), F.S., which is located in the chapter of law governing solicitation of funds from the public, defines “foreign source of concern” to mean any of the following:

- The government or any official of the government of a foreign country of concern;
- A political party or member of a political party or any subdivision of a political party in a foreign country of concern;
- A partnership, an association, a corporation, an organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern, or a subsidiary of such entity;
- Any person who is domiciled in a foreign country of concern and is not a citizen or lawful permanent citizen of the United States;
- An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source of concern; or

- An entity in which a person, entity, or collection of persons or entities described above has a controlling interest.

“Controlling interest” means the possession of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interest of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest.⁴

“Foreign country of concern” has the same meaning as in s. 286.101, F.S.⁵

Foreign Agent

The criminal penalty for theft of or trafficking in trade secrets defines “foreign agent” to mean any officer, employee, proxy, servant, delegate, or representative of a foreign government.⁶

Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization

The criminal penalty for use of military-type military training from a designated foreign terrorist organization with the intent to unlawfully harm another person or damage a critical infrastructure facility defines “designated foreign terrorist organization” to mean an organization designated as a terrorist organization under s. 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.⁷ The U.S. Department of State currently lists 93 designated foreign terrorist organizations.⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill revises the definition of “foreign source of concern” in s. 496.404(14), F.S., to add that the term includes a designated foreign terrorist organization or an agent acting on behalf of a foreign terrorist organization.

The bill revises the definitions of “foreign country of concern” in ss. 287.138 and 692.201, F.S., to clarify that the term includes any entity *under* significant control of such country, not *of* significant control.

Registration of Foreign Agents (Section 2)

Present Situation

Federal Law

Enacted in 1938, the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) sought to expose foreign influence in American politics, with a focus on identifying and making a public record of attempts to spread propaganda and foreign agendas.⁹ FARA has been revised to respond to the

⁴ Section 496.404(14)(f), F.S.

⁵ Section 496.404(13), F.S.

⁶ Section 812.081, F.S.

⁷ Section 775.32(1)(b), F.S.

⁸ See “Foreign Terrorist Organizations,” <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations> (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁹ 22 U.S.C. §§ 611, 621; See Jacob R. Straus, *Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA): Background and Issues for Congress*, Congressional Research Service (June 30, 2020) available at <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R46435>; See *Vierick v. United States*, 318 U.S. 236, 241 (1943); See also, U.S. Congress, House Committee on the Judiciary, *Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995*, report to accompany H.R. 2564, 104th Cong., 1st sess., November 14, 1995, H.Rept.104-339, part 1 (Washington:

changing nature of representation of foreign entities in the United States, reorienting the law away from propaganda activities and toward foreign advocacy and lobbying.¹⁰ Recent enforcement of FARA has focused on “instances of alleged conduct similar to more traditional espionage by foreign government actors.”¹¹

FARA requires certain persons, referred to as “agents of a foreign principal,”¹² to register with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and disclose their relationships, activities, receipts, and disbursements in support of their advocacy or public relations activities, when representing foreign entities, known as “foreign principals,”¹³ within the United States. Individuals who meet the definition of an “agent of a foreign principal” are required to file a registration statement within 10 days of agreeing to become an agent.¹⁴ Supplemental statements must be filed every six months thereafter.¹⁵ Registration statements must include:¹⁶

- The registrant’s name and both personal and business addresses;
- The registrant’s status, nationality of all individuals, partnerships, and corporate directors or officers;

GPO, 1995), pp. 5-8 (FARA responded to foreign influence concerns by creating a system designed “to identify agents of foreign principals who might engage in subversive acts or in spreading foreign propaganda and to require them to make a public record of the nature of their employment.”).

¹⁰ *Id.* (FARA was amended in 1938, 1942, 1966, and 1995.)

¹¹ See “General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing,” a memorandum from Attorney General Pamela Bondi to all Department of Justice employees, February 2025, available at <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388541/dl> (last visited January 27, 2026).

¹² 22 U.S.C. §611(c) (“Except as provided under §611(d), the term ‘agent of a foreign principal’ means- (1) any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign principal or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign principal, and who directly or through any other person- (i) engages within the United States in political activities for or in the interests of such foreign principal; (ii) acts within the United States as a public relations counsel, publicity agent, information-service employee or political consultant for or in the interests of such foreign principal; (iii) within the United States solicits, collects, disburses, or dispenses contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for or in the interest of such foreign principal; or (iv) within the United States represents the interests of such foreign principal before any agency or official of the Government of the United States; and (2) any person who agrees, consents, assumes or purports to act as, or who is or holds himself out to be, whether or not pursuant to contractual relationship, an agent of a foreign principal as defined in clause (1) of this subsection.”); *But see* 22 U.S.C. §611(d) (Section (d) provides that, “(d) The term ‘agent of a foreign principal’ does not include any news or press service or association organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, or any newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication for which there is on file with the United States Postal Service information in compliance with section 3611 of title 39, published in the United States, solely by virtue of any bona fide news or journalistic activities, including the solicitation or acceptance of advertisements, subscriptions, or other compensation therefor, so long as it is at least 80 per centum beneficially owned by, and its officers and directors, if any, are citizens of the United States, and such news or press service or association, newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication, is not owned, directed, supervised, controlled, subsidized, or financed, and none of its policies are determined by any foreign principal defined in subsection (b) of this section, or by any agent of a foreign principal required to register under this subchapter.”).

¹³ 22 U.S.C. §611(b) (“The term ‘foreign principal’ includes - (1) a government of a foreign country and a foreign political party; (2) a person outside of the United States, unless it is established that such person is an individual and a citizen of and domiciled within the United States, or that such person is not an individual and is organized under or created by the laws of the United States or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and has its principal place of business within the United States; and (3) a partnership, association, corporation, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.”).

¹⁴ 22 U.S.C. §612(a).

¹⁵ 22 U.S.C. §612(b).

¹⁶ 22 U.S.C. §612.

- A statement on the nature of the registrant's business, a complete list of employees, the nature of their work, and the name and address of every foreign principal the registrant represents;
- Copies of the registrant's written agreement with a foreign principal and conditions of all oral agreements;
- The nature and amount of contributions, income, money, or other items of value received from a foreign principal; and
- A detailed statement on spending connected with activities for the foreign principal.

The registration and supplemental statements must be made under oath¹⁷ and filed electronically.¹⁸ The Attorney General is required to maintain permanent copies of all registration statements and to provide copies to the public, the Secretary of State, other executive agencies, and congressional committees.¹⁹ FARA requires that political propaganda be filed with the DOJ and specifically labeled.²⁰ These "informational materials" must be filed by agents of foreign principals within 48 hours of registration and must contain specific labeling language.²¹ Further, all informational materials distributed by registered foreign agents "must contain a conspicuous label if such media are used as instruments to disseminate informational materials."²² FARA also requires all agents of a foreign principal keep and preserve all books and records of activities that are required to be disclosed under the law.²³ These records include: activities taken on behalf of a foreign principal, correspondence about political activities, original copies of contracts, names of individuals to whom informational materials have been transmitted, and bookkeeping and financial records.²⁴

In addition, FARA requires firms or other entities that are agents of a foreign principal to also register.²⁵ The entities' officers or directors are under obligation to ensure the agent of a foreign principal is registered and are potentially liable and could face prosecution for failed compliance.²⁶

Certain agents of a foreign principal are exempt from registering under FARA.²⁷

¹⁷ 22 U.S.C. §612(c).

¹⁸ 22 U.S.C. §612(g).

¹⁹ 22 U.S.C. §616(a)-(d) (The Attorney General must also maintain a publicly available, internet accessible, searchable, and downloadable database).

²⁰ 22 U.S.C. §614.

²¹ See U.S. Department of Justice, National Security Division, Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) Unit, "What are the Filing and Labeling Requirements for Informational Materials?" *General FARA Frequently Asked Questions*, at <https://www.justice.gov/nsd-fara/general-fara-frequently-asked-questions>. For additional regulations on the labeling of informational materials, see 28 C.F.R. §5.402, at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=55bbcbd4f61d657ca4ec8a5862d848e1&mc=true&node=se28.1.5_1402&rgn=div8. (The following labeling language must be included on "informational materials": "This material is distributed by (name of registrant) on behalf of (name of foreign principal). Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.").

²² *Id.*

²³ 22 U.S.C. §615; See 28 C.F.R. §5.500(b) (records must be available for inspection); See also 28 C.F.R. §5.500(c) (records must be kept for three years after the foreign principal-agent relationship has been terminated).

²⁴ 28 C.F.R. §5.500(a).

²⁵ 22 U.S.C. §617.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ 22 U.S.C. §613 (FARA listed exemptions: **Diplomatic or Consular Officers-** Duly accredited diplomatic or consular officials, recognized by Department of State, performing official functions; **Official of Foreign Government-** officials of

Violators of FARA face potential fines or imprisonment.²⁸ The Attorney General may establish regulations to implement the law.²⁹ Further, every six months, the Attorney General must submit a report to Congress on the administration of FARA.³⁰

Federal law, under the Federal Elections Campaign Act (FECA)³¹ as amended, prohibits foreign nationals,³² in connection with any federal, state, or local election, from making:

- Contributions;
- Donations;
- Expenditures (including independent expenditures); and
- Disbursements solicited, directed, received or made directly or indirectly by or from such foreign nationals.³³

recognized governments who are not public-relations counsel, publicity agent, information-services employee, or citizen of the United States, acting in an official capacity; **Staff Members of Diplomatic or Consular Officers**- any staff member or employee of a duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer, other than a public relations counsel, of a State Department recognized foreign government performing official functions; **Private and Nonpolitical Activities; Solicitation of Funds**- “any person engaging or agree to engage only (1) in private and nonpolitical activities in furtherance of the bona fide trade or commerce of such foreign principal; or (2) in other activities not serving predominantly a foreign interest; or (3) in the soliciting or collecting of funds and contributions within the United States to be used only for medical aid and assistance, or for food and clothing to relieve human suffering”; **Religious, Scholastic, or Scientific Pursuits**- person engaged “only in activities in furtherance of bona fide religious, scholastic, academic, or scientific pursuits or of the fine arts”; **Defense of Foreign Government Vital to United States Defense**- Agents “whose foreign principal is a government of a foreign country the defense of which the President deems vital to the defense of the United States,” if certain specified conditions are met; **Qualified to Practice Law**- any person qualified to practice law who engages “in the legal representation of a disclosed foreign principal before any court of law or any agency of the Government of the United States.” Does not include advocacy activity outside judicial proceedings, criminal or civil law enforcement inquiries, investigations, or statutorily required agency proceedings; **Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) Filer**- Individuals registered under LDA are not required to register under FARA.).

²⁸ 22 U.S.C. §618(a) (Any person who willfully violates the law or willfully makes false statements in registration or supplemental statements upon conviction may “be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.”); *See also* 22 U.S.C. §618(a) (Violating provisions of the filing and labeling requirements for political propaganda, failing to correct deficient registration statements, or having a contingent fee arrangement with a foreign principal carry potential penalties of up to a \$5,000 fine or six months in prison.).

²⁹ The regulations for FARA are located at 28 C.F.R. §§5.1-5.1101.; *But see Justice Department Proposes New Regulations to Modernize Foreign Agents Registration Act Administration and Enforcement*, U.S. Department of Justice Website Press Release (Friday, December 20, 2024), available at <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/justice-department-proposes-new-regulations-modernize-foreign-agents-registration-act> (FARA’s implementing regulations have not been updated since 2007. The DOJ recently announced a proposed rule that would alter key exemptions that companies and individuals most frequently rely on, including (1) the “commercial” exemption, (2) the exemption for persons whose activities do not predominantly serve a foreign interest, and (3) the exemption for persons qualified to practice law. The proposed rule also adds several new requirements for handling “informational materials,” including by requiring foreign agents to more frequently and conspicuously disclose their agency status (such as on websites, broadcasts, and social media), even when performing acts such as scheduling meetings with members of Congress or other U.S. officials. The practical effect of the proposed changes will be to limit the number of individuals who could claim the exemptions.).

³⁰ 22 U.S.C. §621.

³¹ 52 U.S.C. § 30121.

³² *See* 11 CFR 110.20(a)(3) (A “foreign national” is: “1. An individual who is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States and has not been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence, as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20); or 2. A foreign principal, as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 611(b).”).

³³ Federal Election Commission Web page, *Foreign Nationals*, (last visited March 14, 2025), available at [https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/foreign-nationals/#:~:text=Federal%20law%20prohibits%20contributions%2C%20donations,federal%2C%20state%20or%20local%](https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/foreign-nationals/#:~:text=Federal%20law%20prohibits%20contributions%2C%20donations,federal%2C%20state%20or%20local%20)

This prohibition includes advances of personal funds; contributions or donations made to political party committees and organizations, state or local party committees for the purchase or construction of an office building funds;³⁴ and contributions or disbursements to make electioneering communications.³⁵ Foreign nationals are also prohibited from directly or indirectly donating to an inaugural committee, and it is a violation of federal law to knowingly accept such donations from a foreign national.³⁶

Florida Law

Florida law prohibits foreign nationals³⁷ from directly or indirectly making, or offering to make, a contribution or expenditure in connection with any election held in the state.³⁸ The prohibition applies to both candidate and ballot question campaigns.³⁹

Any state agency or political subdivision that receives, directly or indirectly, any gift or grant with a value of \$50,000 or more from any foreign source must disclose such gift or grant to the Department of Financial Services within 30 days.⁴⁰ Such disclosure must include the date and amount of the gift or grant and the name and country of residence or domicile of the foreign source.⁴¹

Current law also specifies restrictions on governmental entity agreements with foreign countries of concern. (See additional information later in this analysis under “International Cultural Agreements.”)

Effect of Proposed Changes

This bill creates a new requirement under the Florida Election Code⁴² for the registration of agents and organizations associated with foreign countries of concern.

20election.; See 52 U.S.C. § 30101(1). (FECA defines an “election” to encompass not only general, special, primary, and runoff elections but also conventions or caucuses of political parties that have the authority to nominate candidates.).

³⁴ See 11 CFR 300.35

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ See s. 106.08(12)(a)1, F.S. (“the term ‘foreign national’ means: a. A foreign government; b. A foreign political party; c. A foreign corporation, partnership, association, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country; d. A person with foreign citizenship; or e. A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and is not lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. 2. The term does not include: a. A person who is a dual citizen or dual national of the United States and a foreign country. b. A domestic subsidiary of a foreign corporation, partnership, association, organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country if: (I) The donations and disbursements used toward a contribution, or an expenditure are derived entirely from funds generated by the subsidiary’s operations in the United States; and (II) All decisions concerning donations and disbursements used toward a contribution or an expenditure are made by individuals who either hold United States citizenship or are permanent residents of the United States. For purposes of this sub-sub-subparagraph, decisions concerning donations and disbursements do not include decisions regarding the subsidiary’s overall budget for contributions or expenditures in connection with an election.”).

³⁸ Section 106.08(12)(b), F.S.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ Section 286.101(2), F.S.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² See Chapters 97-106, F.S.

The bill provides definitions for the terms “address,”⁴³ “agent of a foreign country of concern,”⁴⁴ “foreign country of concern,”⁴⁵ “foreign supported political organization,”⁴⁶ “payment,”⁴⁷ and “political activity.”⁴⁸

The bill requires a person to register with the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections (Division) within 10 days of becoming an agent of a foreign country of concern. The Division is required to create a registration form, which at a minimum, must require the following information to be disclosed by registrants:

- The registrant’s name.
- The address of the registrant’s primary residence and all other addresses associated with the registrant.
- The name and address of the registrant’s principal place of business.
- A detailed statement describing the nature of the registrant’s business.
- The name of each foreign country of concern for whom the registrant is acting, assuming or purporting to act, or has agreed to act.
- A detailed statement describing the nature of the work and the character of the business or other activities of each foreign country of concern.
- A statement detailing each time the registrant received a payment from a foreign country of concern within the previous 90 days. The statement must identify the amount of the payment and the nature of such payment.
- The total amount of such payments the registrant has received within the previous 90 days from a foreign country of concern.
- A detailed statement of every activity the registrant, or a person on behalf of the registrant, is performing, has performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of a foreign country of concern.
- If the registrant is also engaged in political activity on behalf of a person who is not associated with a foreign country of concern but who is an agent of a foreign country of concern the registrant must include the following information:
 - The name, employer, business and residence addresses, and, if applicable, nationality of such person.

⁴³ “Address” is defined to mean any address, no matter the location, inside or outside of the United States.

⁴⁴ “Agent of a foreign country of concern” means a person: 1. Who acts as an agent, an employee, a representative, or a servant, or who otherwise acts at the order, at the request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign country of concern; 2. Whose actions are financed, in whole or in part, by a foreign country of concern; and 3. Who engages in political activity.

⁴⁵ “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under significant control of such foreign country of concern.

⁴⁶ “Foreign-supported political organization” means a political party or a domestic partnership, an association, a corporation, an organization, or any other business entity that has its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern; or is at least 20 percent beneficially owned by a foreign country of concern, a nonresident alien from a foreign country of concern, or an entity organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.

⁴⁷ “Payment” includes compensation and disbursement made in any form, including, but not limited to, contributions, income, money, tangible property, and intangible property.

⁴⁸ “Political activity” means an activity that is performed to: 1. Influence an agency, a public official, or a local governmental entity; 2. Influence the public in creating, adopting, or changing state laws or government policies; 3. Support or oppose a candidate for office; 4. Influence the outcome of an election; or 5. Support or oppose any issue.

- A detailed statement of every activity the registrant, or a person on behalf of the registrant, is performing, has performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of such person.
- A statement detailing each time the registrant received a payment from such person within the previous 90 days. The statement must identify the amount of the payment and the nature of such payment.
- A detailed statement of the payments made by the registrant during the previous 90 days in connection with actions taken by the registrant as an agent of, on behalf of, or in furtherance of the goals of a foreign country of concern or a person who is an agent of a country of concern.
- A detailed statement of any payments made by the registrant during the previous 90 days related to any political activity.

A registered individual must update the information required by the registration form at least every 90 days and must register for any period of time for which he or she was engaged as an agent of a foreign country of concern.

On or before January 1, 2027, each foreign-supported political organization must register with the Division. The Division must create a separate form for such registration that at a minimum requires the following information:

- The organization's name and mailing address and the address of any physical office.
- The names, titles, and addresses of all officers or directors of the organization.
- A detailed statement of all payments made by the organization that would constitute political activity during the previous calendar year.
- A detailed statement of all payments made to, or received by, the organization from a foreign country of concern or an agent of a foreign country of concern during the preceding calendar year.

A registered organization must update the information required by the registration form at least every 90 days.

A person or organization found to be in violation of this section by the Florida Elections Commission⁴⁹ is subject to the general penalties for elections violations provided in ss. 106.265⁵⁰ and 106.27,⁵¹ F.S., as well as:

- A fine of up to \$500 for any willful violation.

⁴⁹ The Florida Elections Commission is a nine-member commission, housed within the Department of Legal Affairs, that has jurisdiction to investigate and determine violations of chs. 104 and 106, F.S. (ss. 106.24(1) and 106.25(1), F.S.). For the purposes of commission jurisdiction, a violation means the willful performance of act prohibited by, or the willful failure to perform an act required by, ch. 104 or 106, F.S. (s. 106.25(3), F.S.).

⁵⁰ "(1)(a) The commission or, in cases referred to the Division of Administrative Hearings pursuant to s. 106.25(5), the administrative law judge is authorized upon the finding of a violation of this chapter or chapter 104 to impose civil penalties in the form of fines not to exceed \$2,500 per count. The fine may be multiplied by a factor of 3, not to exceed \$7,500, for each subsequent count of the same category, beginning with the fourth offense."

⁵¹ "(1) Criminal proceedings for violations of this chapter or chapter 104 may be brought in the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction . . . (2) Civil actions may be brought by the commission for relief, including permanent or temporary injunctions, restraining orders, or any other appropriate order for the imposition of civil penalties provided by this chapter. . . (3) Civil actions may be brought to enjoin temporarily the issuance of certificates of election to successful candidates who are alleged to have violated the provisions of this chapter or 104."

- A fine of up to \$2,000 for any willful repeated violation.

Ethics Requirements for Public Officials and Employees (Sections 3 and 4)

Present Situation

Commission on Ethics

The Commission on Ethics (Commission) was created by the Legislature in 1974 “to serve as guardian of the standards of conduct” for state and local public officials and employees.⁵² The Florida Constitution and state law designate the Commission as the independent commission provided for in s. 8(g), Art. II of the Florida Constitution.⁵³ Constitutional duties of the Commission consist of conducting investigations and making public reports on all breach of trust complaints towards public officers or employees not governed by the judicial qualifications commission.⁵⁴ In addition to constitutional duties, the Commission, in part:

- Renders advisory opinions to public officials;⁵⁵
- Makes recommendations to disciplinary officials when appropriate for violations of ethics and disclosure laws;⁵⁶
- Administers the Executive Branch Lobbying Registration and Reporting Law;⁵⁷
- Maintains financial disclosure filings of constitutional officers and state officers and employees;⁵⁸ and
- Administers automatic fines for public officers and employees who fail to timely file a required annual financial disclosure.⁵⁹

Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Generally

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees (Code of Ethics)⁶⁰ establishes ethical standards for public officials and is intended to ensure that public officials conduct themselves independently and impartially, not using their office for private gain other than compensation provided by law.⁶¹ The Code of Ethics addresses various issues, such as ethics trainings, voting conflicts, full and public disclosure of financial interests, standards of conduct, and the Commission on Ethics, among others.⁶²

Restriction on Gifts

Public officers, state agency employees, local government attorneys, and candidates for office are prohibited from soliciting or accepting anything of value, including a gift, loan, reward,

⁵² Florida Commission on Ethics, *Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*, p. 1, available at <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2023310> (last visited January 26, 2026); *see also* s. 112.320, F.S.

⁵³ Section (8)(j)(3), art. II, Fla. Const.; s. 112.320, F.S.

⁵⁴ Section (8)(g), art. II., Fla. Const.

⁵⁵ Section 112.322(3)(a), F.S.

⁵⁶ Section 112.322(2)(b), F.S.

⁵⁷ Sections 112.3215 and 112.32155, F.S.

⁵⁸ Section 112.3144, F.S.

⁵⁹ Sections 112.3144, 112.3145, and 112.31455, F.S.

⁶⁰ *See* pt. III. Ch. 112, F.S.

⁶¹ Florida Commission on Ethics, *Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*, p. 1, available at <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2023310> (last visited January 26, 2026)

⁶² *See* pt. III. 112, F.S.

promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon the understanding that their vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced.⁶³

Ethics Training for Specified Public Officials

Current law requires all constitutional officers,⁶⁴ elected municipal officers, commissioners of a community redevelopment agency, and elected local officers of an independent special district to complete 4 hours of ethics training each calendar year. At a minimum, such training must address state constitutional and statutory ethics requirements and state public records and meetings laws.⁶⁵ The Commission on Ethics must adopt rules establishing minimum course content for the portion of the ethics training which addresses state constitutional and statutory ethics requirements.⁶⁶

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill adds the following definitions to the section of law governing standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys:

- “Designated foreign terrorist organization,” which is assigned the same meaning as in s. 775.32, F.S.
- “Foreign country of concern,” which is assigned the same meaning as in s. 286.101(1), F.S.

The bill expands the restriction on gifts by prohibiting an public officer, an employee of an agency, a local government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election from soliciting or accepting anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, for any purpose, including, but not limited to, a gift from a designated foreign terrorist organization or any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a foreign terrorist organization, or travel costs or any reimbursement for costs of attending a conference or other event, from a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions, or from any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions.

The bill requires the Commission on Ethics to, by November 1, 2026, to adopt revised rules to supplement the minimum course content for required ethics training. The additional course content must include:

- Known efforts by foreign countries of concern to target and influence subnational governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party’s United Front strategy.⁶⁷ The term “foreign country of concern” has the same definition as in s. 287.138, F.S.

⁶³ Section 112.313(2), F.S.

⁶⁴ “Constitutional officers” includes the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, state attorneys, public defenders, sheriffs, tax collectors, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, clerks of the circuit court, county commissioners, district school board members, and superintendents of school (s. 112.3142(1), F.S.).

⁶⁵ Section 112.3142(2), F.S.

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ China employs a political influence strategy known as “United Front” to manage, co-opt, and mitigate “potential opposition to the policies and authority of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).” The CCP entity responsible for coordinating this effort, the United Front Work Department, primarily focuses on managing groups within China but also carries out significant activities abroad. In the international context, United Front work includes efforts aimed at engaging

- How to identify, recognize, and report suspected foreign influence campaigns.
- Prohibitions on receiving gifts from foreign countries of concern or designated foreign terrorist organizations. The term “designated foreign terrorist organization” has the same definition as in s. 775.32, F.S.

Governmental Contracting with Entities of Foreign Countries of Concern (Section 5)

Present Situation

Government Contracting and Procurement

Current law requires a competitive solicitation⁶⁸ process when state agencies wish to procure commodities or contractual services that cost more than \$35,000.⁶⁹ Depending on the type of contract and scope of work or goods sought, an agency may use one of three procurement methods:

- Invitation to bid (ITB): An agency must use an ITB when the agency is capable of specifically defining the scope of work for which a contractual service is required or when the agency is capable of establishing precise specifications defining the actual commodity or group of commodities required.⁷⁰
- Request for proposals (RFP): An agency must use an RFP when the purposes and uses for which the commodity, group of commodities, or contractual service being sought can be specifically defined and the agency is capable of identifying necessary deliverables.⁷¹
- Invitation to negotiate (ITN): An ITN is a solicitation used by an agency that is intended to determine the best method for achieving a specific goal or solving a particular problem and identifies one or more responsive vendors with which the agency may negotiate in order to receive the best value.⁷²

Scrutinized List of Prohibited Countries

Companies on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan list, on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector list, or engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria are prohibited from bidding on, submitting a proposal for, or entering into or renewing a contract with an agency or a local governmental entity for goods or services of \$1 million or more.⁷³ Similarly, a company on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel list or a company that engaged in a boycott of Israel may not bid on, submit a proposal for, or enter into or renew a contract with an agency or local governmental entity for

and influencing ethnic Chinese individuals, as well as broader influence operations conducted through affiliated organizations that target foreign institutions and governments. *See* U.S-China Economic and Security Review Commission, “China’s Overseas United Front Work: Background and Implications for the United States,” available at <https://www.uscc.gov/research/chinas-overseas-united-front-work-background-and-implications-united-states> (last visited January 29, 2026).

⁶⁸ A “competitive solicitation” is the process of requesting and receiving two or more sealed bids, proposals, or replies submitted by responsive vendors in accordance with the terms of a competitive process, regardless of the method of procurement (s. 287.012(6), F.S.)

⁶⁹ Sections 287.057 and 287.017, F.S.

⁷⁰ Section 287.057(1)(a), F.S.

⁷¹ Section 287.057(1)(b), F.S.

⁷² Section 287.057(1)(c), F.S.

⁷³ Section 287.135(2)(b), F.S.

goods or services of any amount.⁷⁴ The State Board of Administration is charged with maintaining a complete list of scrutinized companies.⁷⁵

Governmental Contracting with Foreign Countries of Concern, Generally

Current law prohibits a governmental entity⁷⁶ from knowingly entering into a contract with, or renewing a contract with, an entity which would give access to an individual's personal identifying information if:

- The entity is owned by the government of a foreign country of concern;⁷⁷
- The government of a foreign country of concern has a controlling interest⁷⁸ in the entity; or
- The entity is organized under the laws of or has its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.⁷⁹

In addition, a governmental entity may not accept a bid on, a proposal for, or a reply to, or enter into a contract with an entity which would grant the entity access to an individual's personal information unless the entity provides the governmental entity with an affidavit signed by an officer or representative of the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity does not meet any of the specified criteria regarding foreign countries of concern.⁸⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill:

- Creates an additional definition, providing that “foreign source of concern” has the same meaning as in s. 496.404, F.S.
- Revises the prohibition related to governmental contracts and access to personal information to instead prohibit a governmental entity from knowingly entering into a contract with an entity in which a foreign *source* of concern has an ownership or controlling interest if the contract would give access to an individual's personal identifying information.
- Creates a new prohibition against government contracting for information technology, or for any services related to information technology:
 - With an entity in which a foreign source of concern has an ownership or controlling interest; or

⁷⁴ Section 287.135(2)(a), F.S.

⁷⁵ Sections 215.4725 and 215.473, F.S.

⁷⁶ “Governmental entity” means any state, county, district, or authority, or municipal officer, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other separate unit of government created or established by law including, but not limited to, the Commission on Ethics, the Public Service Commission, the Office of Public Counsel, and any other public or private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or business entity acting on behalf of any public agency (s. 287.138(1)(d), F.S.).

⁷⁷ “Foreign country of concern” means the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity of significant control of such foreign country of concern (s. 287.138(1)(c), F.S.).

⁷⁸ “Controlling interest” means possession of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a company, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. A person or entity that directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interests of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest. Section 287.138(1)(a), F.S.

⁷⁹ Section 287.138(2)-(3), F.S.

⁸⁰ Section 287.138(4)(a), F.S.

- Through a third-party seller when the information technology is designed, manufactured, or assembled by any entity in which a foreign source of concern has an ownership or controlling interest.
- Expands the existing prohibition against specified government procurement activities to also include an activity or contract that would involve information technology.

The bill also updates dates by which governmental entities must comply with the law's provisions, to incorporate the changes made by the bill.

Intergovernmental Relations (Section 6)

Present Situation

The Florida Secretary of State serves as the state protocol officer.⁸¹ Among other duties, the state protocol officer is responsible for consular operations and the sister city and sister state program.⁸²

A consul is an official appointed by a government to live in a foreign city and protect and promote that government's citizens and interests there. An honorary consul is a person who approved by the United States Department of State to perform limited consular services such as fostering business relationships and hosting cultural education. The U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions authorizes the establishment of consular posts in the United States.⁸³ The Florida Department of State's website currently lists 117 consulate locations within the state.⁸⁴

A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from each community signs off on the agreement.⁸⁵ Each relationship is independent and may include municipal, business, trade, educational and cultural exchanges and projects.⁸⁶ According to the Directory of Bi-National Chambers and Sister Cities in Florida, in December 2024, 58 Florida cities were engaged in sister city relationships.⁸⁷

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill provides that the state protocol officer's activities regarding the sister city and sister state program may not include encouragement of any affiliations with foreign countries of concern, as defined in s. 288.860, F.S., or their subdivisions.

⁸¹ Section 15.01(1), F.S.

⁸² Section 288.816(1), F.S.

⁸³ See "Consular Offices in Florida," Florida Department of State website, <https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/about-us/office-of-international-affairs/consular-offices-in-florida/> (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁸⁴ *Id.* The department's website cautions that it is not responsible for the accuracy of the list and suggests contacting the respective consulate for information.

⁸⁵ See "Florida Sister Cities," Florida Department of State website, <https://dos.fl.gov/cultural/about-us/office-of-international-affairs/florida-sister-cities/> (last visited January 14, 2026).

⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ "Directory of Bi-National Chambers and Sister Cities in Florida," <https://files.floridados.gov/media/709662/bi-national-chambers-and-fl-sister-cities-as-of-december-2024.pdf> (last visited January 14, 2026).

In addition, the bill requires the Department of State to publish on its website, and update quarterly:

- A current and accurate list of all foreign consulate offices.
- A current and accurate list of all sister city and sister state affiliations, including a copy of all such agreements.

Relationships between Postsecondary Institutions in Florida and Foreign Countries (Section 7)

Present Situation

Current law establishes Florida linkage institutes, which are relationships between postsecondary institutions in this state and those of selected foreign countries. They are intended to assist in the development of stronger economic, cultural, educational, and social ties between Florida and strategic foreign countries through:

- Expanded public and private dialogue on cooperative research and technical assistance activities;
- Increased bilateral commerce;
- Student and faculty exchange;
- Cultural exchange; and
- The enhancement of language training skills.⁸⁸

There are currently 11 linkage institutes established in statute.⁸⁹ Each institute is allowed to exempt from in-state residency tuition requirements up to 25 full-time equivalent students per year from the respective host countries.⁹⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill:

- Removes the Florida-China Institute from the list of established linkage institutes.
- Repeals the exemption for in-state residency tuition requirements.
- Creates a new prohibition, that a linkage institute may not enter into any agreement or participate in any activities with a foreign country of concern or any organization in a foreign country of concern. “Foreign country of concern” has the same meaning as in s. 288.860, F.S.

⁸⁸ Section 288.8175(1), F.S.

⁸⁹ Section 288.8175(4), F.S. The institutes are the Florida-Brazil Institute (University of Florida and Miami-Dade College), Florida-Costa Rica Institute (Florida State University and Valencia College), Florida Caribbean Institute (Florida International University and Daytona State College), Florida-Canada Institute (University of Central Florida and Palm Beach State College), Florida-China Institute (University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and Eastern Florida State College), Florida-Japan Institute (University of South Florida, University of West Florida, and St. Petersburg College), Florida-France Institute (New College of the University of South Florida, Miami Dade College, and Florida State University), Florida-Israel Institute (Florida Atlantic University and Broward College), Florida-West Africa Institute (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of North Florida, and Florida State College at Jacksonville), Florida-Eastern Europe Institute (University of Central Florida and Lake-Sumter State College), and Florida-Mexico Institute (Florida International University and Polk State College).

⁹⁰ Section 288.8175(5), F.S. Section 1009.21, F.S., sets forth requirements for resident status for tuition purposes.

International Cultural Agreements (Section 8)

Present Situation

A state agency, political subdivision, or public school authorized to expend state-appropriated funds or levy ad valorem taxes may not participate in any agreement with or accept any grant from a foreign country of concern, or any entity controlled by a foreign country of concern, which:

- Constrains the freedom of contract of such public entity;
- Allows the curriculum or values of a program in the state to be directed or controlled by the foreign country of concern; or
- Promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents.⁹¹

Before the execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign country of concern, the substance of the agreement must be shared with federal agencies concerned with protecting national security or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other restrictions under federal law.⁹² If such a federal agency provides information suggesting that such an agreement promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents, the public entity may not enter into the agreement.⁹³

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill deletes the specified conditions under which the prohibition on agreements or grants is effective, thereby making it a blanket prohibition without exceptions. The bill also provides that all agreements entered into under the existing law, including, but not limited to, sister city agreements, are terminated as of July 1, 2026.

Protection of State Critical Infrastructure Facilities (Section 11)

Present Situation

Current law provides a number of definitions of “critical infrastructure” and related protections. Examples include:

- A criminal penalty for a person who knowingly and intentionally tampers with and damages infrastructure of certain manufacturing, mining, energy, water treatment, transportation, military, or civil defense facilities or locations, or of dams.⁹⁴
- A public records exemption for specified information relating to information technology and operational technology, the incapacity or destruction of which would negatively affect security, economic security, public health, or public safety.⁹⁵
- A prohibition against operating a drone over specified manufacturing, mining, energy, water treatment, transportation, military, or correctional or detention facilities, or over dams.⁹⁶

⁹¹ Section 288.860(2), F.S.

⁹² Section 288.860(2)(c), F.S.

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ Section 812.141, F.S.

⁹⁵ Section 119.0725, F.S.

⁹⁶ Section 330.41, F.S.

- Authorization for a security officer of a specified chemical, energy, shipping, or telecommunications facility to temporarily detain a person suspecting of committing a crime.⁹⁷
- A prohibition against foreign ownership of land that is within 10 miles of a specified chemical, energy, water treatment, telecommunications, or transportation facility or location.⁹⁸
- A prohibition against and related criminal penalty for a person who receives military-type training from a designated foreign terrorist organization and uses or attempts to use such training with the intent to damage a specified chemical, energy, shipping, or telecommunications facility.⁹⁹

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates a new section of law, within the chapter prohibiting the purchase of certain land by foreign principals, to govern the protection of state critical infrastructure facilities from foreign sources of concern. It assigns the term “foreign source of concern” the same meaning as in s. 496.404, F.S., and “business entity” the same meaning as in s. 112.312, F.S.¹⁰⁰ The bill provides that “critical infrastructure facility” means any of the following, if it employs measures such as fences, barriers, or guard posts that are designed to exclude unauthorized persons:

- A chemical manufacturing facility.
- A refinery.
- An electrical power plant.
- A water treatment facility or wastewater treatment plant.
- A liquid natural gas terminal.
- A telecommunications central switching office.
- A gas processing plant, including a plant used in the processing, treatment, or fractionation of natural gas.
- A seaport.
- A spaceport territory.
- An airport.¹⁰¹

The bill prohibits a governmental entity; a business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to a critical infrastructure facility; or a foreign source of concern from entering into a contract or other agreement relating to a critical infrastructure facility within this state if the contract or agreement authorizes a foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such critical infrastructure facility.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill requires a business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to a critical infrastructure facility in Florida which entered into a contract or other agreement before the bill’s effective date with a foreign source of concern

⁹⁷ Section 493.631, F.S.

⁹⁸ Sections 692.201(2) and 692.203(1), F.S.

⁹⁹ Section 775.32, F.S.

¹⁰⁰ Section 112.312(5), F.S., defines “business entity” to mean any corporation, partnership, limited partnership, company, limited liability company, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, self-employed individual, or trust, whether fictitiously or not, doing business in this state.

¹⁰¹ Section 692.201(2), F.S.

relating to such critical infrastructure facility to register with the Department of Commerce¹⁰² by January 1 of each year for the remainder of the term of the contract or agreement. The Department of Commerce must adopt a form for such registration that includes:

- The name of the business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities.
- The address of the critical infrastructure facility the entity is constructing, repairing, or operating or to which the entity otherwise has significant access.
- A description of the specific terms of the contract or agreement which authorizes a foreign source of concern to engage in constructing, repairing, or operating or to otherwise have significant access to such critical infrastructure facility.

The bill provides that a business entity that fails to register as required commits a second-degree misdemeanor and also is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day the violation continues.

Before commencing any sale or other transfer of control of a critical infrastructure facility in Florida, the bill requires the business entity selling or otherwise transferring control of such facility to provide an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to the Department of Commerce attesting that the buyer or transferee is not a foreign source of concern.

The bill prohibits information technology¹⁰³ produced or manufactured by a foreign source of concern or a company under the direction of a foreign source of concern from being used in a critical infrastructure facility located in or serving Florida.

The bill requires the Department of Commerce to adopt rules to implement the new provisions.

Criminal Offenses by Foreign Agents (Section 12)

Present Situation

Reclassification occurs when the Legislature *increases the degree of a conviction*. The reclassification attaches at the time the charges are filed.¹⁰⁴ Reclassification of a criminal conviction from one degree to a higher degree stems from an express and explicit grant of statutory authority.¹⁰⁵

Current law provides a reclassified, increased criminal penalty for a person who commits trafficking in trade secrets if the action was committed with the intent to benefit a foreign

¹⁰² The purpose of the Department of Commerce is to assist the Governor in working with the Legislature, state agencies, business leaders, and economic development professionals to formulate and implement coherent and consistent policies and strategies designed to promote economic opportunities. The department is the state's chief agency for business recruitment and expansion and economic development. *See* s. 20.60, F.S., and "Department of Commerce," Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, available at <https://oppaga.fl.gov/ProgramSummary/ProgramDetail?programNumber=6101> (last visited January 27, 2026).

¹⁰³ As defined in s. 282.0041, F.S.

¹⁰⁴ *Cooper v. State*, 455 So.2d 588 (Fla. 1st DCA 1984); *Jackson v. State*, 515 So.2d 394 (Fla. 1st DCA 1987).

¹⁰⁵ *Cf. Spicer v. State*, 615 So.2d 725, 726 (Fla. 2d DCA 1993) (reversing reclassification of robbery with a mask conviction because "[p]enal statutes must be construed in terms of their literal meaning [I]f the legislature had intended section 775.0845 [Florida Statutes (1989)] to reclassify offenses, it would have so stated").

government, a foreign agent, or a foreign instrumentality.¹⁰⁶ “Foreign agent” means any officer, employee, proxy, servant, delegate, or representative of a foreign government.¹⁰⁷ Current law also provides a reclassified, increased criminal penalty for a person who commits threats or extortion if that person is acting as a foreign agent.¹⁰⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates a new section of law providing for reclassification of criminal offenses committed for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization. Specifically, in such case:

- A second-degree misdemeanor is reclassified to a first-degree misdemeanor.
- A first-degree misdemeanor is reclassified to a third-degree felony.
- A third-degree felony is reclassified to a second-degree felony.
- A second-degree felony is reclassified to a first-degree felony.
- A first-degree felony is reclassified to a life felony.

The bill also provides that, in addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, a person convicted of a first-degree felony or a life felony under the new section must be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years.

Unauthorized Enforcement of Foreign Law (Section 13)

Present Situation

Transnational repression occurs when foreign governments or agents reach beyond their borders to intimidate, silence, coerce, harass, or harm members of their diaspora and exile communities in the United States.¹⁰⁹ Such repression may include, among other actions:

- Stalking.
- Online disinformation campaigns.
- Harassment.
- Intimidation or threats.
- Cyberhacking.¹¹⁰

In 2025, Texas enacted two laws to combat attempts by foreign agents to police individuals on U.S. soil without legal authority, criminalizing:

- The unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.¹¹¹
- Transnational repression.¹¹²

Florida does not currently specifically prohibit the unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.

¹⁰⁶ Section 812.081(4), F.S.

¹⁰⁷ Section 812.081(4), F.S.

¹⁰⁸ Section 836.05(2), F.S.

¹⁰⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “What We Investigate,”

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence/transnational-repression> (last visited January 26, 2026).

¹¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹¹ Section 76.046, Texas Penal Code.

¹¹² Section 76.045, Texas Penal Code.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates a new section of law, substantially similar to the Texas law, that prohibits the unauthorized enforcement of foreign law. Specifically, the bill provides that without the approval of this state or the United States, a person may not:

- Prevent another person in this state from violating the laws of a foreign government that are not also the laws of this state or the United States.
- Investigate, monitor, or surveil another person in this state for the purposes of preventing the other person from violating the laws of a foreign government that are not also the laws of this state or the United States.

The bill makes violation of the new prohibition a third-degree felony. However, if a person violates the prohibition for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designation foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization, the penalty is a second-degree felony.

The bill defines “agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization” to mean a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a designated foreign terrorist organization. “Designated foreign terrorist organization” has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32(1), F.S. “Foreign government” has the same meaning as in s. 286.101(1), F.S.

Governmental Contracting for Traffic Camera Systems with Foreign Countries of Concern (Section 14)

Present Situation

Florida law expressly preempts to the state the regulation of the use of cameras for enforcing the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law.¹¹³ The only cameras currently authorized to enforce traffic laws are traffic infraction detectors (commonly known as red light cameras),¹¹⁴ speed detection systems used to enforce school zone speed limits for violations in excess of 10 miles per hour over the speed limit,¹¹⁵ and school bus infraction detection systems.¹¹⁶

A governmental entity may not knowingly enter into or renew a contract with a contracting vendor of any camera system used for enforcing Florida’s Uniform Traffic Control Law if:

- The contracting vendor is owned by the government of a foreign country of concern; or
- The government of a foreign country has a controlling interest in the contracting vendor.

The terms “controlling interest” and “foreign country of concern” have the same meanings as in s. 287.138(1), F.S.¹¹⁷

¹¹³ Section 316.0076, F.S. Ch. 316, F.S., is the Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law. The purpose of Florida Uniform Traffic Control Law is to ensure consistent and uniform regulation of traffic across Florida jurisdictions (s. 316.002, F.S.).

¹¹⁴ Section 316.0083, F.S., relating to the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Program.

¹¹⁵ Section 316.1896, F.S.

¹¹⁶ Section 316.173, F.S.

¹¹⁷ Section 316.0078, F.S.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill:

- Deletes the reference to the definition of “foreign country of concern” in s. 287.138(1), F.S.
- Creates a new definition for “foreign country of concern” that is identical to the definition in s. 287.138(1), F.S.

Effective Date (Section 15)

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

Not applicable. The bill does not appear to require counties and municipalities to spend funds, reduce the authority of municipalities or counties to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:**Registration of Foreign Agents (Section 2)**

FARA’s registration requirements have been challenged in court. The first case arose in *Viereck v. United States*, 318 U.S. 236, 237 (1943).¹¹⁸ There, the United States Supreme Court upheld the registration requirements, finding the requirements both reasonable and within the Congressional legislative power.¹¹⁹ In 1982, the registration requirements were challenged and upheld by the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia as not burdensome to free speech.¹²⁰ FARA’s labeling requirements and the “political propaganda” definition were first challenged in 1986.¹²¹ The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia held that despite the public being able to interpret the term “political propaganda” as official government disapproval, any First Amendment infringement was

¹¹⁸ Lynn Alvey Dawson, *Constitutional Law-Freedom of Expression-the Foreign Agents Registration Act*, *Meese v. Keene*, 107 S.ct. 1862 (1987), 12 Suffolk Transnat'l L.J. 457 (1989).

¹¹⁹ *Id.*

¹²⁰ *Attorney General v. Irish People, Inc.*, 684 F.2d 928, 945 (D.C. Cir. 1982).

¹²¹ *See Block v. Meese*, 793 F.2d 1303, 1306-07 (D.C. Cir. 1986)

not severe enough to invalidate the those provisions of FARA.¹²² In 1987, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of FARA, finding that the labeling and definition requirements did not raise constitutional concerns because the term “political propaganda” as defined, was neutral, determining the slight risk of negative connotation to the term did not constitute government censorship.¹²³ In June 2024, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, relying on its 1987 ruling in *United States v. McGoff*,¹²⁴ held that the government can only file lawsuits seeking to compel FARA registration against individuals who are “engaged in or about to engage” in undisclosed foreign influence.¹²⁵

An individual or entity required to register under the bill may raise issues under the First Amendment, arguing that the requirements, under the bill, burdens their ability to engage in constitutionally protected political speech under the First Amendment.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Registration of Foreign Agents (Section 2)

The bill will likely have an indeterminate negative impact on individuals or entities who are required to register under the bill, due to expense required to collect, maintain, file, and update the information the bill requires to be provided to the Division of Elections. Further, there will be a cost associated with individuals or entities or who are penalized for noncompliance.

Governmental Contracting with Entities of Foreign Countries of Concern (Section 5)

¹²² *Id.*

¹²³ *Meese v. Keene*, 107 S. Ct. 1862, 1873 (1987); See Lynn Alvey Dawson, *Constitutional Law-Freedom of Expression-the Foreign Agents Registration Act*, *Meese v. Keene*, 107 S.Ct. 1862 (1987), 12 Suffolk Transnat'l L.J. 457, 465 (1989) (“In *Keene v. Meese* the Court, consistent with its prior decisions, has upheld the requirements of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. By maintaining the constitutionality of the Act, the Court has indicated its reluctance to invalidate an Act of Congress where the alleged infringement of first amendment rights is slight.”). *But see* American Civil Liberties Union and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University *amicus brief* (filed March 5, 2025) in *United States v. Terry*, No. 1:24-cr-00427 (S.D.N.Y.) (For recent arguments in support of a narrow interpretation of FARA, in an amicus brief for pending case, the ACLU argues that “FARA’s definitions of ‘foreign principal,’ ‘request,’ ‘political activities,’ and ‘publicity agent’ can be interpreted to cover a vast array of constitutionally protected activity. Absent a narrowing interpretation, the statute risks suppressing and chilling protected speech without any legitimate governmental justification. To avoid the serious First Amendment questions that might otherwise arise, the Court should interpret FARA’s terms narrowly. . . . Although the government has a legitimate interest in better informing Americans about potential foreign manipulation of the U.S. political process, a broad reading of FARA’s terms would sweep in a wide array of constitutionally protected speech and would likely violate the First Amendment.”).

¹²⁴ *United States v. McGoff*, 831 F.2d 1071(D.C. Cir. 1987).

¹²⁵ *Attorney General v. Wynn*, No. 22-5328 (D.C. Cir. 2024).

The bill may have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on business entities impacted by the expanded contracting restrictions.

International Relations (Section 6)

The bill may have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on communities that would otherwise engage in a sister city or sister state relationship with a community in a foreign country of concern.

Relationships between Postsecondary Institutions in Florida and Foreign Countries (Section 7)

The bill will likely have a negative fiscal impact on students from other countries who would previously have benefited from the limited exemption for in-state residency tuition requirements.

International Cultural Agreements (Section 8)

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on entities controlled by a foreign country of concern to the extent that they are impacted by the bill's expanded restrictions on agreements and grants.

Protection of Critical State Infrastructure Facilities (Section 10)

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the private sector by limiting which parties may enter into specified contracts or agreements related to critical infrastructure facilities, as well as creating fines associated with failing to register specified information related to specified contracts or agreements related to critical infrastructure facilities.

Criminal Offenses by Foreign Agents (Section 11)

The bill will have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on persons who are convicted of the reclassified criminal offenses.

Unauthorized Enforcement of Foreign Law (Section 12)

The bill will have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on persons who are convicted of violating the new prohibition on authorized enforcement of foreign law.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Registration of Foreign Agents (Section 2)

The bill will likely have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on the state due to the costs associated with developing and maintaining the registration system, as well as administrative oversight, compliance monitoring, and enforcement related to the system. However, revenue from fines imposed for violations may offset some of these costs.

Ethics Requirements for Public Officials and Employees (Sections 3 and 4)

The bill's expansion of the gift restriction may result in an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on the Commission on Ethics to the extent that additional enforcement actions occur. In addition, the Commission on Ethics may incur an insignificant, negative fiscal impact associated with creating the additional ethics training content and related rulemaking.

Governmental Contracting with Entities of Foreign Countries of Concern (Section 5)

The bill may result in an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on state and local governments. It expands contracting prohibitions related to business entities with connections to foreign countries of concern, and state agencies and local governments could incur costs associated with updating procurement procedures. Additionally, legal costs to the state may arise if enforcement actions are pursued. However, the costs can likely be absorbed within existing resources.

International Relations (Section 6)

The bill may have an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on the Department of State due to the creation of new publishing requirements. However, the new requirements are likely to be absorbed within existing resources.

Relationships between Postsecondary Institutions in Florida and Foreign Countries (Section 7)

Florida postsecondary institutions affiliated with the Florida-China Institute or that would otherwise participate in activities involving a foreign country of concern may incur an indeterminate fiscal impact.

International Cultural Agreements (Section 8)

The bill's expansion of restrictions on governmental agreements and grants may have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on governmental entities that would enter into an agreement or grant under current law.

Protection of Critical State Infrastructure Facilities (Section 10)

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state government by limiting which parties may enter into specified contracts relating to critical infrastructure, and by creating fines associated with failing to register specified information related to specified contracts and agreements related to critical infrastructure. The bill may have an indeterminate positive impact on jail beds by creating a misdemeanor offense related to failing to register specified information as required.

Criminal Offenses by Foreign Agents (Section 11)

There may be an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact to the extent that the reclassification of crimes leads to additional jail or prison bed needs. However, some costs may be offset by associated fines that are increased due to the reclassified crimes.

Unauthorized Enforcement of Foreign Law (Section 12)

There will likely be an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on the criminal justice system to the extent that the new crime leads to additional prosecutions and increased need for jail or prison beds. However, some costs may be offset by associated fines.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 112.313, 112.3142, 287.138, 288.816, 288.8175, 288.860, and 316.0078.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 106.031, 692.21, 775.08255, and 775.36.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Ethics and Elections (January 28, 2026)

The committee substitute makes drafting changes to clarify language in the bill and related statutes, as well as to ensure the definitions of terms used in the bill are clear. The committee substitute also clarifies that:

- Penalties under the new state-level requirements for registration of foreign agents are for *willful* violations, to be consistent with the Florida Elections Commission's jurisdiction.
- The new course content requirements for ethics training are *in addition to* existing content requirements.

B. Amendments:

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
01/28/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Ethics and Elections (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 192 - 589

and insert:

(a) For any willful violation, a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

(b) For any repeated willful violation, a fine of up to \$2,000 per violation.

Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:



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11 112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees
12 of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

13 (1) DEFINITIONS ~~DEFINITION~~.—As used in this section, unless
14 the context otherwise requires, the term:

15 (a) “Designated foreign terrorist organization” has the
16 same meaning as in s. 775.32.

17 (b) “Foreign country of concern” has the same meaning as in
18 s. 286.101(1).

19 (c) “Public officer” includes any person elected or
20 appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person
21 serving on an advisory body.

22 (2) SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

23 (a) A ~~no~~ public officer, an employee of an agency, a local
24 government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election
25 may not ~~shall~~ solicit or accept anything of value to the
26 recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future
27 employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that
28 the vote, official action, or judgment of the public officer,
29 employee, local government attorney, or candidate would be
30 influenced thereby.

31 (b) A public officer, an employee of an agency, a local
32 government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election
33 may not solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient,
34 including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment,
35 favor, or service, for any purpose, including, but not limited
36 to, a gift from a designated foreign terrorist organization or
37 any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a
38 foreign terrorist organization, or travel costs or any
39 reimbursement for costs of attending a conference or other



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event, from a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions, or from any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions.

Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional officers, elected municipal officers, commissioners of community redevelopment agencies, and elected local officers of independent special districts.—

(2)

(e) The commission shall adopt rules establishing minimum course content for the portion of an ethics training class which addresses s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees. By November 1, 2026, the commission shall adopt revised rules to supplement the minimum course content, including all of the following:

1. Known efforts by foreign countries of concern to target and influence subnational governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party's United Front strategy.

2. How to identify, recognize, and report suspected foreign influence campaigns.

3. Prohibitions on receiving gifts from foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 287.138 or designated foreign terrorist organizations as defined in s. 775.32.

Section 5. Present paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 287.138, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsections (2), (3), and



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(4) of that section are amended, to read:

287.138 Contracting with entities of foreign sources and
countries of concern prohibited.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(c) “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s
Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic
of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic
of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian
Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under
~~of~~ significant control of such foreign country of concern.

(d) “Foreign source of concern” has the same meaning as in
s. 496.404.

(2)(a) A governmental entity may not knowingly enter into a
contract with an entity in which a foreign source of concern has
an ownership or controlling interest if the contract would give
access to an individual’s personal identifying information.

(b) A governmental entity may not enter into a contract for
information technology as defined in s. 282.0041, or for any
services related to information technology, with an entity in
which a foreign source of concern has an ownership or
controlling interest or through a third-party seller when the
information technology is designed, manufactured, or assembled
by any entity in which a foreign source of concern has an
ownership or controlling interest if:

~~(a) The entity is owned by the government of a foreign
country of concern;~~

~~(b) The government of a foreign country of concern has a
controlling interest in the entity; or~~

~~(c) The entity is organized under the laws of or has its~~



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~~principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.~~

(3) Beginning July 1, 2026 ~~2025~~, a governmental entity may not extend or renew a contract with an entity listed in subsection (2) ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(c)~~ if the contract would give such entity access to an individual's personal identifying information.

(4)(a) Beginning January 1, 2026 ~~2024~~, a governmental entity may not accept a bid on, a proposal for, or a reply to, or enter into, a contract with an entity which would grant the entity access to an individual's personal identifying information or involve information technology unless the entity provides the governmental entity with an affidavit signed by an officer or representative of the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity does not meet any of the criteria in subsection (2) ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(c)~~.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2026 ~~2025~~, when an entity extends or renews a contract with a governmental entity which would grant the entity access to an individual's personal identifying information, the entity must provide the governmental entity with an affidavit signed by an officer or a representative of the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity does not meet any of the criteria in subsection (2) ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(c)~~.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 288.816, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

(3) The state protocol officer may:

(a) Coordinate and carry out activities designed to



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encourage the state and its subdivisions to participate in sister city and sister state affiliations with foreign countries and their subdivisions. Such activities may include a State of Florida sister cities conference. Such activities may not include encouragement of any affiliations with foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 288.860 or their subdivisions.

(7) The department shall publish on its website, to be updated quarterly, the following information:

(a) A current and accurate list of all foreign consulate offices.

(b) A current and accurate list of all sister city and sister state affiliations, including a copy of all such agreements.

Section 7. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 288.8175, Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary institutions in this state and foreign countries.—

(3) Each institute must be co-administered in this state by a university-community college partnership, ~~as designated in subsection (5),~~ and must have a private sector and public sector advisory committee. The advisory committee must be representative of the international education and commercial interests of the state and may have members who are native to the foreign country partner. Six members must be appointed by the Department of Education. The Department of Education must appoint at least one member who is an international educator. The presidents, or their designees, of the participating university and community college must also serve on the advisory



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committee.

(4) The institutes are:

(a) Florida-Brazil Institute (University of Florida and Miami Dade College).

(b) Florida-Costa Rica Institute (Florida State University and Valencia College).

(c) Florida Caribbean Institute (Florida International University and Daytona State College).

(d) Florida-Canada Institute (University of Central Florida and Palm Beach State College).

~~(e) Florida-China Institute (University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and Eastern Florida State College).~~

(e)~~(f)~~ Florida-Japan Institute (University of South Florida, University of West Florida, and St. Petersburg College).

(f)~~(g)~~ Florida-France Institute (New College of the University of South Florida, Miami Dade College, and Florida State University).

(g)~~(h)~~ Florida-Israel Institute (Florida Atlantic University and Broward College).

(h)~~(i)~~ Florida-West Africa Institute (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of North Florida, and Florida State College at Jacksonville).

(i)~~(j)~~ Florida-Eastern Europe Institute (University of Central Florida and Lake-Sumter State College).

(j)~~(k)~~ Florida-Mexico Institute (Florida International University and Polk State College).

~~(5) Each institute is allowed to exempt from s. 1009.21 up to 25 full-time equivalent students per year from the respective~~



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~~host countries to study in any of the state universities or
community colleges in this state as resident students for
tuition purposes. The institute directors shall develop
criteria, to be approved by the Department of Education, for the
selection of these students. Students must return home within 3
years after their tenure of graduate or undergraduate study for
a length of time equal to their exemption period.~~

(7) A linkage institute may not enter into any agreement or
participate in any activities with a foreign country of concern
as defined in s. 288.860 or any organization in a foreign
country of concern.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 288.860, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

288.860 International cultural agreements.—

(2)(a) A state agency, political subdivision, or public
school authorized to expend state-appropriated funds or levy ad
valorem taxes may not participate in any agreement with or
accept any grant from a foreign country of concern or its
subdivisions, or any entity controlled by a foreign country of
concern.

(b) All agreements under paragraph (a), including, but not
limited to, sister city agreements, are terminated as of July 1,
2026., which:

~~(a) Constrains the freedom of contract of such public
entity;~~

~~(b) Allows the curriculum or values of a program in the
state to be directed or controlled by the foreign country of
concern; or~~

~~(c) Promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or~~



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~~security of the United States or its residents. Before the
execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign
country of concern, the substance of the agreement must be
shared with federal agencies concerned with protecting national
security or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other
restrictions under federal law. If such federal agency provides
information suggesting that such agreement promotes an agenda
detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or
its residents, the public entity may not enter into the
agreement.~~

Section 9. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (14) of
section 496.404, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
(g) is added to that subsection, to read:

496.404 Definitions.—As used in ss. 496.401-496.424, the
term:

(14) "Foreign source of concern" means any of the
following:

(e) An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a
foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source of
concern; ~~or~~

(f) An entity in which a person, entity, or collection of
persons or entities described in paragraphs (a)-(e) has a
controlling interest. As used in this paragraph, the term
"controlling interest" means the possession of the power to
direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of
an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract,
or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly
has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interest
of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its



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profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest; or
(g) A designated foreign terrorist organization as defined
in s. 775.32 or an agent acting on behalf of a designated
foreign terrorist organization.

Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 692.201, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

692.201 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(3) “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s
Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic
of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic
of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian
Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under
~~of~~ significant control of such foreign country of concern.

Section 11. Section 692.21, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

692.21 Protection of state critical infrastructure
facilities from a foreign source of concern.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Business entity” has the same meaning as in s.
112.312.

(b) “Foreign source of concern” has the same meaning as in
s. 496.404.

(c) “Governmental entity” has the same meaning as in s.
287.138.

(2) (a) A governmental entity or a business entity
constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having
significant access to a critical infrastructure facility may not
enter into a contract or other agreement relating to a critical
infrastructure facility in this state with a foreign source of



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concern if the contract or agreement authorizes the foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such critical infrastructure facility.

(b) A foreign source of concern may not enter into a contract or other agreement relating to critical infrastructure facilities in this state with a business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities, or a governmental entity, if the contract or agreement authorizes the foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such critical infrastructure facility.

(3) (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, a business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to a critical infrastructure facility in this state which entered into a contract or other agreement before July 1, 2026, with a foreign source of concern relating to such critical infrastructure facility must register with the Department of Commerce by January 1 of each year for the remainder of the term of the contract or agreement with the foreign source of concern relating to such critical infrastructure facility. The Department of Commerce shall adopt a registration form that includes all of the following:

1. The name of the business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities in this state.

2. The address of the critical infrastructure facility the business entity is constructing, repairing, or operating or to which the business entity otherwise has significant access.

3. A description of the specific terms of the contract or



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agreement which authorizes a foreign source of concern to engage in constructing, repairing, or operating or to otherwise have significant access to such critical infrastructure facility.

(b) A business entity that violates paragraph (a):

1. Is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day the violation continues.

2. Commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(4) Before commencing any sale or other transfer of control of a critical infrastructure facility in this state, the business entity selling or otherwise transferring control of such critical infrastructure facility must provide an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to the Department of Commerce attesting that the buyer or transferee is not a foreign source of concern.

(5) Information technology as defined in s. 282.0041 produced or manufactured by a foreign source of concern or a company under the direction or control of a foreign source of concern may not be used in a critical infrastructure facility located in or serving this state.

(6) The Department of Commerce shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 12. Section 775.08255, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.08255 Offenses by foreign agents; reclassification.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization" means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a



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designated foreign terrorist organization.

(b) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32.

(c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as provided in s. 286.101.

(2) The penalty for any misdemeanor or felony may be reclassified if the commission of such misdemeanor or felony was for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization. The reclassification is as follows:

(a) A misdemeanor of the second degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified to a felony of the third degree.

(c) A felony of the third degree is reclassified to a felony of the second degree.

(d) A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.

(e) A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony.

(3) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, a person convicted of a felony of the first degree or a life felony under this section shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years.

Section 13. Section 775.36, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.36 Unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.—



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(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization" means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a designated foreign terrorist organization.

(b) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32.

(c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as in s. 286.101.

(2) Without the approval of this state or the United States, a person may not:

(a) Prevent another person in this state from violating the laws of a foreign government which are not also the laws of this state or the United States; or

(b) Investigate, monitor, or surveil another person in this state for the purpose of preventing the other person from violating the laws of a foreign government that are not also the laws of this state or the United States.

(3) A person who violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who violates this section for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 316.0078, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



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316.0078 Prohibition on contracting for camera systems of vendors of foreign countries of concern.—

(1) As used in this section, the term: ~~terms~~

(a) "Controlling interest" has the same meaning as in s. 287.138. ~~and~~

(b) "Foreign country of concern" means the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 21 - 60
and insert:

revising the definition of the term "foreign country of concern"; defining the term "foreign source of concern"; prohibiting a governmental entity from entering into certain contracts with certain entities owned or partially owned by foreign sources of concern or affiliated with a foreign country of concern; prohibiting governmental entities from extending and renewing certain contracts beginning on a specified date; prohibiting governmental entities from accepting a bid on, a proposal for, or a reply to, or entering into, contracts involving information technology or providing access to an individual's personal identifying information unless a certain affidavit signed by an officer or representative is provided to



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the governmental entity; amending s. 288.816, F.S.; prohibiting certain activities encouraging affiliations with foreign countries of concern; requiring the Department of Commerce to publish and update certain information on its website; amending s. 288.8175, F.S.; deleting the Florida-China Institute from the list of linkage institutes; deleting an exemption for linkage institutes; prohibiting a linkage institute from entering into an agreement or participating in an activity with a foreign country of concern; amending s. 288.860, F.S.; requiring that certain agreements be terminated by a specified date; amending s. 496.404, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "foreign source of concern"; amending s. 692.201, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "foreign country of concern"; creating s. 692.21, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting governmental entities and business entities with access to critical infrastructure facilities from entering into certain contracts with foreign sources of concern; requiring business entities to register with the department by a specified date; requiring the department to adopt registration forms; providing requirements for such forms; providing civil and criminal penalties; requiring certain business entities to provide a signed affidavit to the department attesting that the buyer or transferee of a critical infrastructure facility is not a foreign source of concern; prohibiting information technology from a foreign



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446 source of concern from being used in critical
447 infrastructure facilities; requiring the department to
448 adopt rules; creating s. 775.08255, F.S.; defining
449 terms; providing for the reclassification of criminal
450 penalties under certain circumstances; providing a
451 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment; creating s.
452 775.36, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting enforcement
453 of certain laws of a foreign government; providing
454 criminal penalties; amending s. 316.0078,

By Senator Grall

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to foreign influence; providing a
 3 short title; creating s. 106.031, F.S.; defining
 4 terms; requiring agents of foreign countries of
 5 concern and foreign-supported political organizations
 6 to register with the Division of Elections; providing
 7 registration requirements; requiring periodic updates
 8 by such agents and organizations; requiring foreign-
 9 supported political organizations to register with the
 10 division on a specified form created by the division
 11 within a specified timeframe; providing requirements
 12 for such forms; providing penalties; amending s.
 13 112.313, F.S.; defining the terms "designated foreign
 14 terrorist organization" and "foreign country of
 15 concern"; prohibiting specified persons from
 16 soliciting or accepting anything of value from a
 17 designated foreign terrorist organization or a foreign
 18 country of concern; amending s. 112.3142, F.S.;
 19 requiring the Commission on Ethics to adopt certain
 20 rules by a specified date; amending s. 287.138, F.S.;
 21 defining the term "foreign source of concern";
 22 prohibiting a governmental entity from entering into
 23 certain contracts with certain entities owned or
 24 partially owned by foreign sources of concern or
 25 affiliated with a foreign country of concern; amending
 26 s. 288.816, F.S.; prohibiting certain activities
 27 encouraging affiliations with foreign countries of
 28 concern; requiring the Department of Commerce to
 29 publish and update certain information on its website;

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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30 amending s. 288.8175, F.S.; deleting the Florida-China
 31 Institute from the list of linkage institutes;
 32 deleting an exemption for linkage institutes;
 33 prohibiting a linkage institute from entering into an
 34 agreement or participating in an activity with a
 35 foreign country of concern; amending s. 288.860, F.S.;
 36 requiring that certain agreements be terminated by a
 37 specified date; amending s. 496.404, F.S.; revising
 38 the definition of the term "foreign source of
 39 concern"; creating s. 692.21, F.S.; prohibiting
 40 governmental entities and certain entities with access
 41 to critical infrastructure facilities from entering
 42 into certain contracts with foreign sources of
 43 concern; requiring certain entities to register with
 44 the Department of Commerce by a specified date;
 45 requiring the department to adopt registration forms;
 46 providing requirements for such forms; providing civil
 47 and criminal penalties; requiring certain entities to
 48 provide a signed affidavit to the department attesting
 49 that the buyer or transferee of a critical
 50 infrastructure facility is not a foreign source of
 51 concern; prohibiting information technology from a
 52 foreign source of concern from being used in critical
 53 infrastructure facilities; requiring the department to
 54 adopt rules; creating s. 775.08255, F.S.; defining
 55 terms; providing for the reclassification of criminal
 56 penalties under certain circumstances; providing a
 57 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment; creating s.
 58 775.36, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting enforcement

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of certain laws of a foreign government; providing criminal penalties; amending ss. 282.802 and 316.0078, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Foreign Interference Restriction and Enforcement Act."

Section 2. Section 106.031, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

106.031 Registration of agents and organizations associated with foreign nations.-

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Address" includes any address, no matter the location, inside or outside of the United States.

(b) "Agent of a foreign country of concern" means a person:

1. Who acts as an agent, an employee, a representative, or a servant, or who otherwise acts at the order, at the request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign country of concern;

2. Whose actions are financed, in whole or in part, by a foreign country of concern; and

3. Who engages in political activity.

(c) "Foreign country of concern" means the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, the State of Qatar, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or

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any other entity under significant control of such foreign country of concern.

(d) "Foreign-supported political organization" means a political party or a domestic partnership, an association, a corporation, an organization, or any other business entity that engages in political activity within this state and that:

1. Has its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern; or

2. Is at least 20 percent beneficially owned by a foreign country of concern, a nonresident alien from a foreign country of concern, or an entity organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.

(e) "Payment" includes compensation and disbursement made in any form, including, but not limited to, contributions, income, money, tangible property, and intangible property.

(f) "Political activity" means an activity that is performed to:

1. Influence an agency, a public official, or a local governmental entity;

2. Influence the public in creating, adopting, or changing state laws or government policies;

3. Support or oppose a candidate for office;

4. Influence the outcome of an election; or

5. Support or oppose any issue.

(2)(a) A person who becomes an agent of a foreign country of concern must, within 10 days after becoming such an agent, register with the division. The registration must be signed under oath.

(b) The division shall create a form for the registration

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117 required under paragraph (a). Such form must require, at a
 118 minimum, all of the following information:

119 1. The registrant's name.
 120 2. The address of the registrant's primary residence and
 121 all other addresses associated with the registrant.
 122 3. The name and address of the registrant's principal place
 123 of business.
 124 4. A detailed statement describing the nature of the
 125 registrant's business.
 126 5. The name of each foreign country of concern for whom the
 127 registrant is acting, is assuming or purporting to act, or has
 128 agreed to act.
 129 6. A detailed statement describing the nature of the work
 130 and the character of the business or other activities of each
 131 foreign country of concern identified in subparagraph 5.
 132 7. A statement detailing each time the registrant received
 133 a payment from a foreign country of concern identified in
 134 subparagraph 5. within the previous 90 days. The statement must
 135 identify the amount of the payment and the nature of such
 136 payment.
 137 8. The total amount of such payments the registrant has
 138 received within the previous 90 days from a foreign country of
 139 concern identified in subparagraph 5.
 140 9. A detailed statement of every activity the registrant,
 141 or a person acting on behalf of the registrant, is performing,
 142 has performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of a foreign
 143 country of concern identified in subparagraph 5.
 144 10. If the registrant is also engaged in political activity
 145 on behalf of a person who is not associated with a foreign

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146 country of concern but who is an agent of a foreign country of
 147 concern, include:

148 a. The name, employer, business and residence addresses,
 149 and, if applicable, nationality of such person;
 150 b. A detailed statement of every activity the registrant,
 151 or a person acting on behalf of the registrant, is performing,
 152 has performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of such
 153 person; and
 154 c. A statement detailing each time the registrant received
 155 a payment from such person within the previous 90 days. The
 156 statement must identify the amount of the payment and the nature
 157 of the payment.
 158 11. A detailed statement of the payments made by the
 159 registrant during the previous 90 days in connection with
 160 actions taken by the registrant as an agent of, on behalf of, or
 161 in furtherance of the goals of a foreign country of concern or a
 162 person identified in subparagraph 10.
 163 12. A detailed statement of all payments relating to
 164 political activity made by the registrant during the previous 90
 165 days.
 166 (c) A registrant must update the information required under
 167 paragraph (b) at least every 90 days.
 168 (d) A person must register as an agent of a foreign country
 169 of concern for any period of time he or she was engaged in such
 170 position.
 171 (3)(a) On or before January 1, 2027, each foreign-supported
 172 political organization must register with the division.
 173 (b) The division shall create a form for the registration
 174 required under paragraph (a). The form must require, at minimum,

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all of the following information:

1. The organization's name and mailing address and the address of any physical office.

2. The names, titles, and addresses of all officers or directors of the organization.

3. A detailed statement of all payments made by the organization that would constitute political activity during the previous calendar year.

4. A detailed statement of all payments made to, or received by, the organization from a foreign country of concern or an agent of a foreign country of concern during the previous calendar year.

(c) An organization must update the information required under paragraph (b) at least every 90 days.

(4) Upon finding a violation of this section, in addition to the remedies provided in ss. 106.265 and 106.27, the Florida Elections Commission may assess the following penalties:

(a) For any violation, a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

(b) For any willful or repeated violation, a fine of up to \$2,000 per violation.

Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

(1) ~~DEFINITIONS~~ ~~DEFINITION~~.—As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

(a) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as in s. 775.32.

(b) "Foreign country of concern" has the same meaning as in

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s. 286.101(1).

(c) "Public officer" includes any person elected or appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person serving on an advisory body.

(2) SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

(a) A ~~No~~ public officer, an employee of an agency, a local government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election may not ~~shall~~ solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the public officer, employee, local government attorney, or candidate would be influenced thereby.

(b) A public officer, an employee of an agency, a local government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election may not solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, for any purpose, including, but not limited to, a gift from a designated foreign terrorist organization or any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a foreign terrorist organization, or travel costs or any reimbursement for costs of attending a conference or other event, from a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions, or from any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions.

Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional

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officers, elected municipal officers, commissioners of community redevelopment agencies, and elected local officers of independent special districts.—

(2)

(e) The commission shall adopt rules establishing minimum course content for the portion of an ethics training class which addresses s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees. By November 1, 2026, the commission shall adopt revised rules for the minimum course content, including all of the following:

1. Known efforts by foreign countries of concern to target and influence subnational governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party's United Front strategy.

2. How to identify, recognize, and report suspected foreign influence campaigns.

3. Prohibitions on receiving gifts from foreign countries of concern or designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Section 5. Present paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 287.138, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, and subsections (2), (3), and (4) of that section are amended, to read:

287.138 Contracting with entities of foreign sources and countries of concern prohibited.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(d) "Foreign source of concern" has the same meaning as in s. 496.404.

(2)(a) A governmental entity may not knowingly enter into a contract with an entity in which a foreign source of concern has

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an ownership or controlling interest in the contract that would give access to an individual's personal identifying information.

(b) A governmental entity may not enter into a contract for information technology as defined in s. 282.0041, or for any services related to information technology, with an entity in which a foreign source of concern has an ownership or controlling interest or through a third-party seller when the information technology is designed, manufactured, or assembled by any entity in which a foreign source of concern has an ownership or controlling interest. if:

(c)(a) The entity is owned by the government of a foreign country of concern.~~+~~

(d)(b) The government of a foreign country of concern has a controlling interest in the entity.~~+~~~~or~~

(e)(e) The entity is organized under the laws of or has its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.

(3) Beginning July 1, 2026 ~~2025~~, a governmental entity may not extend or renew a contract with an entity listed in subsection (2) paragraphs (2)(a)-(e) if the contract would give such entity access to an individual's personal identifying information.

(4)(a) Beginning January 1, 2026 ~~2024~~, a governmental entity may not accept a bid on, a proposal for, or a reply to, or enter into, a contract with an entity which would grant the entity access to an individual's personal identifying information or involve information technology unless the entity provides the governmental entity with an affidavit signed by an officer or representative of the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity does not meet any of the criteria in

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291 ~~subsection (2) paragraphs (2)(a)-(e).~~

292 (b) Beginning July 1, ~~2026~~ 2025, when an entity extends or
 293 renews a contract with a governmental entity which would grant
 294 the entity access to an individual's personal identifying
 295 information, the entity must provide the governmental entity
 296 with an affidavit signed by an officer or a representative of
 297 the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity
 298 does not meet any of the criteria in subsection (2) paragraphs
 299 ~~(2)(a)-(e).~~

300 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 301 288.816, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (7) is
 302 added to that section, to read:

303 288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

304 (3) The state protocol officer may:

305 (a) Coordinate and carry out activities designed to
 306 encourage the state and its subdivisions to participate in
 307 sister city and sister state affiliations with foreign countries
 308 and their subdivisions. Such activities may include a State of
 309 Florida sister cities conference. Such activities may not
 310 include encouragement of any affiliations with foreign countries
 311 of concern as defined in s. 288.860(1) or their subdivisions.

312 (7) The department shall publish on its website, to be
 313 updated quarterly, the following information:

314 (a) A current and accurate list of all foreign consulate
 315 offices.

316 (b) A current and accurate list of all sister city and
 317 sister state affiliations, including a copy of all such
 318 agreements.

319 Section 7. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section

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320 288.8175, Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new subsection
 321 (7) is added to that section, to read:

322 288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary
 323 institutions in this state and foreign countries.—

324 (3) Each institute must be co-administered in this state by
 325 a university-community college partnership, ~~as designated in~~
 326 ~~subsection (5)~~, and must have a private sector and public sector
 327 advisory committee. The advisory committee must be
 328 representative of the international education and commercial
 329 interests of the state and may have members who are native to
 330 the foreign country partner. Six members must be appointed by
 331 the Department of Education. The Department of Education must
 332 appoint at least one member who is an international educator.
 333 The presidents, or their designees, of the participating
 334 university and community college must also serve on the advisory
 335 committee.

336 (4) The institutes are:

337 (a) Florida-Brazil Institute (University of Florida and
 338 Miami Dade College).

339 (b) Florida-Costa Rica Institute (Florida State University
 340 and Valencia College).

341 (c) Florida Caribbean Institute (Florida International
 342 University and Daytona State College).

343 (d) Florida-Canada Institute (University of Central Florida
 344 and Palm Beach State College).

345 ~~(e) Florida-China Institute (University of West Florida,
 346 ~~University of South Florida, and Eastern Florida State College).~~~~

347 (e)(f) Florida-Japan Institute (University of South
 348 Florida, University of West Florida, and St. Petersburg

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College).

~~(f)(g)~~ Florida-France Institute (New College of the University of South Florida, Miami Dade College, and Florida State University).

~~(g)(h)~~ Florida-Israel Institute (Florida Atlantic University and Broward College).

~~(h)(i)~~ Florida-West Africa Institute (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of North Florida, and Florida State College at Jacksonville).

~~(i)(j)~~ Florida-Eastern Europe Institute (University of Central Florida and Lake-Sumter State College).

~~(j)(k)~~ Florida-Mexico Institute (Florida International University and Polk State College).

~~(5) Each institute is allowed to exempt from s. 1009.21 up to 25 full-time equivalent students per year from the respective host countries to study in any of the state universities or community colleges in this state as resident students for tuition purposes. The institute directors shall develop criteria, to be approved by the Department of Education, for the selection of these students. Students must return home within 3 years after their tenure of graduate or undergraduate study for a length of time equal to their exemption period.~~

(7) A linkage institute may not enter into any agreement or participate in any activities with a foreign country of concern as defined in s. 288.860(1) or any organization in a foreign country of concern.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 288.860, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.860 International cultural agreements.—

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(2) (a) A state agency, political subdivision, or public school authorized to expend state-appropriated funds or levy ad valorem taxes may not participate in any agreement with or accept any grant from a foreign country of concern or its subdivisions, or any entity controlled by a foreign country of concern.

(b) All agreements under paragraph (a), including, but not limited to, sister city agreements, are terminated as of July 1, 2026, which:

~~(a) Constrains the freedom of contract of such public entity;~~

~~(b) Allows the curriculum or values of a program in the state to be directed or controlled by the foreign country of concern; or~~

~~(c) Promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents. Before the execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign country of concern, the substance of the agreement must be shared with federal agencies concerned with protecting national security or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other restrictions under federal law. If such federal agency provides information suggesting that such agreement promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents, the public entity may not enter into the agreement.~~

Section 9. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (14) of section 496.404, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to read:

496.404 Definitions.—As used in ss. 496.401-496.424, the

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term:

(14) "Foreign source of concern" means any of the following:

(e) An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source of concern; ~~or~~

(f) An entity in which a person, entity, or collection of persons or entities described in paragraphs (a)-(e) has a controlling interest. As used in this paragraph, the term "controlling interest" means the possession of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interest of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest; or

(g) A designated foreign terrorist organization or an agent acting on behalf of a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Section 10. Section 692.21, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

692.21 Protection of state critical infrastructure facilities from foreign source of concern.—

(1)(a) A governmental entity or an entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to a critical infrastructure facility may not enter into a contract or other agreement relating to a critical infrastructure facility in this state with a foreign source of concern if the contract or agreement authorizes the foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such

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critical infrastructure facility.

(b) A foreign source of concern may not enter into a contract or other agreement relating to critical infrastructure facilities in this state with an entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities, or a governmental entity, if the contract or agreement authorizes the foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such critical infrastructure facility.

(2)(a) Beginning January 1, 2027, an entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to a critical infrastructure facility in this state which entered into a contract or other agreement before July 1, 2026, with a foreign source of concern relating to such critical infrastructure facility must register with the Department of Commerce by January 1 of each year for the remainder of the term of the contract or agreement with the foreign source of concern relating to such critical infrastructure facility. The Department of Commerce shall adopt a registration form that includes all of the following:

1. The name of the entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities in this state.

2. The address of the critical infrastructure facility the entity is constructing, repairing, or operating or to which the entity otherwise has significant access.

3. A description of the specific terms of the contract or agreement which authorizes a foreign source of concern to engage in constructing, repairing, or operating or to otherwise have

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significant access to such critical infrastructure facility.

(b) An entity that violates paragraph (a):

1. Is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day the violation continues.

2. Commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) Before commencing any sale or other transfer of control of a critical infrastructure facility in this state, the entity selling or otherwise transferring control of such critical infrastructure facility must provide an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to the Department of Commerce attesting that the buyer or transferee is not a foreign source of concern.

(4) Information technology as defined in s. 282.0041 produced or manufactured by a foreign source of concern or a company under the direction or control of a foreign source of concern may not be used in a critical infrastructure facility located in or serving this state.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the term "foreign source of concern" has the same meaning as in s. 496.404.

(6) The Department of Commerce shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 11. Section 775.08255, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.08255 Offenses by foreign agents; reclassification.-

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization" means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a designated foreign terrorist organization.

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(b) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32(1).

(c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as provided in s. 286.101(1).

(2) The penalty for any misdemeanor or felony may be reclassified if the commission of such misdemeanor or felony was for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization. The reclassification is as follows:

(a) A misdemeanor of the second degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified to a felony of the third degree.

(c) A felony of the third degree is reclassified to a felony of the second degree.

(d) A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.

(e) A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony.

(3) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, a person convicted of a felony of the first degree or a life felony under this section shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years.

Section 12. Section 775.36, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.36 Unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.-

(1) As used in this section, the term:

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(a) "Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization" means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a designated foreign terrorist organization.

(b) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32(1).

(c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as in s. 286.101(1).

(2) Without the approval of this state or the United States, a person may not:

(a) Prevent another person in this state from violating the laws of a foreign government that are not also the laws of this state or the United States; or

(b) Investigate, monitor, or surveil another person in this state for the purposes of preventing the other person from violating the laws of a foreign government that are not also the laws of this state or the United States.

(3) A person who violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who violates this section for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 282.802, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

282.802 Government Technology Modernization Council.—

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20261178

(7) (a) The council shall meet at least quarterly to:

1. Recommend legislative and administrative actions that the Legislature and state agencies as defined in s. 282.318(2) may take to promote the development of data modernization in this state.

2. Assess and provide guidance on necessary legislative reforms and the creation of a state code of ethics for artificial intelligence systems in state government.

3. Assess the effect of automated decision systems or identity management on constitutional and other legal rights, duties, and privileges of residents of this state.

4. Evaluate common standards for artificial intelligence safety and security measures, including the benefits of requiring disclosure of the digital provenance for all images and audio created using generative artificial intelligence as a means of revealing the origin and edit of the image or audio, as well as the best methods for such disclosure.

5. Assess the manner in which governmental entities and the private sector are using artificial intelligence with a focus on opportunity areas for deployments in systems across this state.

6. Determine the manner in which artificial intelligence is being exploited by bad actors, including foreign countries of concern ~~as defined in s. 287.138(1).~~

7. Evaluate the need for curriculum to prepare school-age audiences with the digital media and visual literacy skills needed to navigate the digital information landscape.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 316.0078, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.0078 Prohibition on contracting for camera systems of

29-01496B-26

20261178__

vendors of foreign countries of concern.—

(1) As used in this section, the term: ~~terms~~

(a) "Controlling interest" has the same meaning as in s.

287.138. and

(b) "Foreign country of concern" means the People's

Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic

of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic

of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian

Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity of

significant control of such foreign country of concern ~~have the~~

~~same meanings as in s. 287.138(1).~~

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
01/28/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Ethics and Elections (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 192 - 589

and insert:

(a) For any willful violation, a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

(b) For any repeated willful violation, a fine of up to \$2,000 per violation.

Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:



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11 112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees
12 of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

13 (1) DEFINITIONS ~~DEFINITION~~.—As used in this section, unless
14 the context otherwise requires, the term:

15 (a) “Designated foreign terrorist organization” has the
16 same meaning as in s. 775.32.

17 (b) “Foreign country of concern” has the same meaning as in
18 s. 286.101(1).

19 (c) “Public officer” includes any person elected or
20 appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person
21 serving on an advisory body.

22 (2) SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

23 (a) A ~~no~~ public officer, an employee of an agency, a local
24 government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election
25 may not ~~shall~~ solicit or accept anything of value to the
26 recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future
27 employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that
28 the vote, official action, or judgment of the public officer,
29 employee, local government attorney, or candidate would be
30 influenced thereby.

31 (b) A public officer, an employee of an agency, a local
32 government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election
33 may not solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient,
34 including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment,
35 favor, or service, for any purpose, including, but not limited
36 to, a gift from a designated foreign terrorist organization or
37 any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a
38 foreign terrorist organization, or travel costs or any
39 reimbursement for costs of attending a conference or other



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event, from a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions, or from any person or entity representing or acting on behalf of a foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions.

Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional officers, elected municipal officers, commissioners of community redevelopment agencies, and elected local officers of independent special districts.—

(2)

(e) The commission shall adopt rules establishing minimum course content for the portion of an ethics training class which addresses s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees. By November 1, 2026, the commission shall adopt revised rules to supplement the minimum course content, including all of the following:

1. Known efforts by foreign countries of concern to target and influence subnational governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party's United Front strategy.

2. How to identify, recognize, and report suspected foreign influence campaigns.

3. Prohibitions on receiving gifts from foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 287.138 or designated foreign terrorist organizations as defined in s. 775.32.

Section 5. Present paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 287.138, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsections (2), (3), and



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(4) of that section are amended, to read:

287.138 Contracting with entities of foreign sources and
countries of concern prohibited.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(c) “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s
Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic
of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic
of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian
Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under
~~of~~ significant control of such foreign country of concern.

(d) “Foreign source of concern” has the same meaning as in
s. 496.404.

(2)(a) A governmental entity may not knowingly enter into a
contract with an entity in which a foreign source of concern has
an ownership or controlling interest if the contract would give
access to an individual’s personal identifying information.

(b) A governmental entity may not enter into a contract for
information technology as defined in s. 282.0041, or for any
services related to information technology, with an entity in
which a foreign source of concern has an ownership or
controlling interest or through a third-party seller when the
information technology is designed, manufactured, or assembled
by any entity in which a foreign source of concern has an
ownership or controlling interest if:

~~(a) The entity is owned by the government of a foreign
country of concern;~~

~~(b) The government of a foreign country of concern has a
controlling interest in the entity; or~~

~~(c) The entity is organized under the laws of or has its~~



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~~principal place of business in a foreign country of concern.~~

(3) Beginning July 1, 2026 ~~2025~~, a governmental entity may not extend or renew a contract with an entity listed in subsection (2) ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(c)~~ if the contract would give such entity access to an individual's personal identifying information.

(4)(a) Beginning January 1, 2026 ~~2024~~, a governmental entity may not accept a bid on, a proposal for, or a reply to, or enter into, a contract with an entity which would grant the entity access to an individual's personal identifying information or involve information technology unless the entity provides the governmental entity with an affidavit signed by an officer or representative of the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity does not meet any of the criteria in subsection (2) ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(c)~~.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2026 ~~2025~~, when an entity extends or renews a contract with a governmental entity which would grant the entity access to an individual's personal identifying information, the entity must provide the governmental entity with an affidavit signed by an officer or a representative of the entity under penalty of perjury attesting that the entity does not meet any of the criteria in subsection (2) ~~paragraphs (2)(a)-(c)~~.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 288.816, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

(3) The state protocol officer may:

(a) Coordinate and carry out activities designed to



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encourage the state and its subdivisions to participate in sister city and sister state affiliations with foreign countries and their subdivisions. Such activities may include a State of Florida sister cities conference. Such activities may not include encouragement of any affiliations with foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 288.860 or their subdivisions.

(7) The department shall publish on its website, to be updated quarterly, the following information:

(a) A current and accurate list of all foreign consulate offices.

(b) A current and accurate list of all sister city and sister state affiliations, including a copy of all such agreements.

Section 7. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 288.8175, Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary institutions in this state and foreign countries.—

(3) Each institute must be co-administered in this state by a university-community college partnership, ~~as designated in subsection (5),~~ and must have a private sector and public sector advisory committee. The advisory committee must be representative of the international education and commercial interests of the state and may have members who are native to the foreign country partner. Six members must be appointed by the Department of Education. The Department of Education must appoint at least one member who is an international educator. The presidents, or their designees, of the participating university and community college must also serve on the advisory



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committee.

(4) The institutes are:

(a) Florida-Brazil Institute (University of Florida and Miami Dade College).

(b) Florida-Costa Rica Institute (Florida State University and Valencia College).

(c) Florida Caribbean Institute (Florida International University and Daytona State College).

(d) Florida-Canada Institute (University of Central Florida and Palm Beach State College).

~~(e) Florida-China Institute (University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and Eastern Florida State College).~~

(e)~~(f)~~ Florida-Japan Institute (University of South Florida, University of West Florida, and St. Petersburg College).

(f)~~(g)~~ Florida-France Institute (New College of the University of South Florida, Miami Dade College, and Florida State University).

(g)~~(h)~~ Florida-Israel Institute (Florida Atlantic University and Broward College).

(h)~~(i)~~ Florida-West Africa Institute (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of North Florida, and Florida State College at Jacksonville).

(i)~~(j)~~ Florida-Eastern Europe Institute (University of Central Florida and Lake-Sumter State College).

(j)~~(k)~~ Florida-Mexico Institute (Florida International University and Polk State College).

~~(5) Each institute is allowed to exempt from s. 1009.21 up to 25 full-time equivalent students per year from the respective~~



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~~host countries to study in any of the state universities or
community colleges in this state as resident students for
tuition purposes. The institute directors shall develop
criteria, to be approved by the Department of Education, for the
selection of these students. Students must return home within 3
years after their tenure of graduate or undergraduate study for
a length of time equal to their exemption period.~~

(7) A linkage institute may not enter into any agreement or
participate in any activities with a foreign country of concern
as defined in s. 288.860 or any organization in a foreign
country of concern.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 288.860, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

288.860 International cultural agreements.—

(2)(a) A state agency, political subdivision, or public
school authorized to expend state-appropriated funds or levy ad
valorem taxes may not participate in any agreement with or
accept any grant from a foreign country of concern or its
subdivisions, or any entity controlled by a foreign country of
concern.

(b) All agreements under paragraph (a), including, but not
limited to, sister city agreements, are terminated as of July 1,
2026., which:

~~(a) Constrains the freedom of contract of such public
entity;~~

~~(b) Allows the curriculum or values of a program in the
state to be directed or controlled by the foreign country of
concern; or~~

~~(c) Promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or~~



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~~security of the United States or its residents. Before the
execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign
country of concern, the substance of the agreement must be
shared with federal agencies concerned with protecting national
security or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other
restrictions under federal law. If such federal agency provides
information suggesting that such agreement promotes an agenda
detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or
its residents, the public entity may not enter into the
agreement.~~

Section 9. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (14) of
section 496.404, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
(g) is added to that subsection, to read:

496.404 Definitions.—As used in ss. 496.401-496.424, the
term:

(14) "Foreign source of concern" means any of the
following:

(e) An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a
foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source of
concern; ~~or~~

(f) An entity in which a person, entity, or collection of
persons or entities described in paragraphs (a)-(e) has a
controlling interest. As used in this paragraph, the term
"controlling interest" means the possession of the power to
direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of
an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract,
or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly
has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interest
of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its



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profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest; or
(g) A designated foreign terrorist organization as defined
in s. 775.32 or an agent acting on behalf of a designated
foreign terrorist organization.

Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 692.201, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

692.201 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(3) “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s
Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic
of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic
of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian
Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under
~~of~~ significant control of such foreign country of concern.

Section 11. Section 692.21, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

692.21 Protection of state critical infrastructure
facilities from a foreign source of concern.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Business entity” has the same meaning as in s.
112.312.

(b) “Foreign source of concern” has the same meaning as in
s. 496.404.

(c) “Governmental entity” has the same meaning as in s.
287.138.

(2) (a) A governmental entity or a business entity
constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having
significant access to a critical infrastructure facility may not
enter into a contract or other agreement relating to a critical
infrastructure facility in this state with a foreign source of



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concern if the contract or agreement authorizes the foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such critical infrastructure facility.

(b) A foreign source of concern may not enter into a contract or other agreement relating to critical infrastructure facilities in this state with a business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities, or a governmental entity, if the contract or agreement authorizes the foreign source of concern to directly or remotely access or otherwise control such critical infrastructure facility.

(3) (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, a business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to a critical infrastructure facility in this state which entered into a contract or other agreement before July 1, 2026, with a foreign source of concern relating to such critical infrastructure facility must register with the Department of Commerce by January 1 of each year for the remainder of the term of the contract or agreement with the foreign source of concern relating to such critical infrastructure facility. The Department of Commerce shall adopt a registration form that includes all of the following:

1. The name of the business entity constructing, repairing, operating, or otherwise having significant access to critical infrastructure facilities in this state.

2. The address of the critical infrastructure facility the business entity is constructing, repairing, or operating or to which the business entity otherwise has significant access.

3. A description of the specific terms of the contract or



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agreement which authorizes a foreign source of concern to engage in constructing, repairing, or operating or to otherwise have significant access to such critical infrastructure facility.

(b) A business entity that violates paragraph (a):

1. Is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day the violation continues.

2. Commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(4) Before commencing any sale or other transfer of control of a critical infrastructure facility in this state, the business entity selling or otherwise transferring control of such critical infrastructure facility must provide an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to the Department of Commerce attesting that the buyer or transferee is not a foreign source of concern.

(5) Information technology as defined in s. 282.0041 produced or manufactured by a foreign source of concern or a company under the direction or control of a foreign source of concern may not be used in a critical infrastructure facility located in or serving this state.

(6) The Department of Commerce shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 12. Section 775.08255, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.08255 Offenses by foreign agents; reclassification.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization" means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a



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designated foreign terrorist organization.

(b) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32.

(c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as provided in s. 286.101.

(2) The penalty for any misdemeanor or felony may be reclassified if the commission of such misdemeanor or felony was for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization. The reclassification is as follows:

(a) A misdemeanor of the second degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified to a felony of the third degree.

(c) A felony of the third degree is reclassified to a felony of the second degree.

(d) A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.

(e) A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony.

(3) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, a person convicted of a felony of the first degree or a life felony under this section shall be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years.

Section 13. Section 775.36, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.36 Unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.—



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(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization" means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a designated foreign terrorist organization.

(b) "Designated foreign terrorist organization" has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32.

(c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as in s. 286.101.

(2) Without the approval of this state or the United States, a person may not:

(a) Prevent another person in this state from violating the laws of a foreign government which are not also the laws of this state or the United States; or

(b) Investigate, monitor, or surveil another person in this state for the purpose of preventing the other person from violating the laws of a foreign government that are not also the laws of this state or the United States.

(3) A person who violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who violates this section for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 316.0078, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



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316.0078 Prohibition on contracting for camera systems of vendors of foreign countries of concern.—

(1) As used in this section, the term: ~~terms~~

(a) "Controlling interest" has the same meaning as in s. 287.138. ~~and~~

(b) "Foreign country of concern" means the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 21 - 60
and insert:

revising the definition of the term "foreign country of concern"; defining the term "foreign source of concern"; prohibiting a governmental entity from entering into certain contracts with certain entities owned or partially owned by foreign sources of concern or affiliated with a foreign country of concern; prohibiting governmental entities from extending and renewing certain contracts beginning on a specified date; prohibiting governmental entities from accepting a bid on, a proposal for, or a reply to, or entering into, contracts involving information technology or providing access to an individual's personal identifying information unless a certain affidavit signed by an officer or representative is provided to



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the governmental entity; amending s. 288.816, F.S.; prohibiting certain activities encouraging affiliations with foreign countries of concern; requiring the Department of Commerce to publish and update certain information on its website; amending s. 288.8175, F.S.; deleting the Florida-China Institute from the list of linkage institutes; deleting an exemption for linkage institutes; prohibiting a linkage institute from entering into an agreement or participating in an activity with a foreign country of concern; amending s. 288.860, F.S.; requiring that certain agreements be terminated by a specified date; amending s. 496.404, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "foreign source of concern"; amending s. 692.201, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "foreign country of concern"; creating s. 692.21, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting governmental entities and business entities with access to critical infrastructure facilities from entering into certain contracts with foreign sources of concern; requiring business entities to register with the department by a specified date; requiring the department to adopt registration forms; providing requirements for such forms; providing civil and criminal penalties; requiring certain business entities to provide a signed affidavit to the department attesting that the buyer or transferee of a critical infrastructure facility is not a foreign source of concern; prohibiting information technology from a foreign



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446 source of concern from being used in critical
447 infrastructure facilities; requiring the department to
448 adopt rules; creating s. 775.08255, F.S.; defining
449 terms; providing for the reclassification of criminal
450 penalties under certain circumstances; providing a
451 mandatory minimum term of imprisonment; creating s.
452 775.36, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting enforcement
453 of certain laws of a foreign government; providing
454 criminal penalties; amending s. 316.0078,



The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Don Gaetz, Chair
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: January 12, 2026

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #1178**, relating to Foreign Influence, be placed on the:

- ☒ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- ☐ next committee agenda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin K. Grall". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Senator Erin Grall
Florida Senate, District 29

January 28, 2026

Meeting Date
Ethics and Elections

Committee

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 1178

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Kelley Currie** Phone **202-352-0945**

Address **3630 Chesapeake Street NW** Email **kelley@kiloalphastrategies.com**

Street

Washington

DC

20008

City

State

Zip

Reset Form

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☒ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

State Armor

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/28/26

Meeting Date

50 1178

Bill Number or Topic

Ethics & Elections

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Robert Pierce

Phone 513-325-9585

Address 900 17th St NW # 1200
Street

Email rpearenc@flsenate.gov

WASHINGTON D.C. 20011
City State Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☒ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
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State Arnor

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 1622

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Penalties for Late-filed Disclosures or Statements of Financial Interests

DATE: January 29, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Cleary	Roberts	EE	Favorable
2.			CA	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 1622 provides a one-time waiver of the automatic fine levied against a reporting individual for a late-filed financial disclosure, if:

- The reporting individual filed his or her financial disclosure late but before the maximum automatic fine accrues for that filing year;
- The reporting person has not in past years accrued the maximum automatic fine for the late filing of a financial disclosure; and
- The reporting person has not previously received in past years a waiver of an automatic fine relating to the late filing of a financial disclosure.

The bill's provisions apply to fines that begin to accrue after September 1, 2026.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

II. Present Situation:

Commission on Ethics

The Commission on Ethics (Commission) was created by the Legislature in 1974 “to serve as guardian of the standards of conduct” for state and local public officials and employees.¹ The Florida Constitution and state law designate the Commission as the independent commission provided for in s. 8(g), Art. II of the Florida Constitution.² Constitutional duties of the Commission consist of conducting investigations and making public reports on all breach of trust

¹ Florida Commission on Ethics, *Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*. P. 1., available at <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2026112> (last visited January 12, 2026).

² Section (8)(j)(3), art. II, Fla. Const.; s. 112.320, F.S.

complaints towards public officers or employees not governed by the judicial qualifications commission.³ In addition to constitutional duties, the Commission, in part:

- Renders advisory opinions to public officials;⁴
- Makes recommendations to disciplinary officials when appropriate for violations of ethics and disclosure laws;⁵
- Administers the Executive Branch Lobbying Registration and Reporting Law;⁶
- Maintains financial disclosure filing of constitutional officers and state officers and employees;⁷ and
- Administers automatic fines for public officers and employees who fail to timely file a required annual financial disclosure.⁸

Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees (Code of Ethics)⁹ establishes ethical standards for public officials and is intended to ensure that public officials conduct themselves independently and impartially, not using their offices for private gain other than compensation provided by law.¹⁰ The Code of Ethics addresses various issues, such as ethics trainings, voting conflicts, full and public disclosure of financial interests, standards of conduct, and the Commission on Ethics, among others.¹¹

Disclosure of Financial Interests

Conflicts of interest may occur when public officials are in a position to make decisions that affect their personal financial interests. To address this concern, public officers and employees, as well as candidates who run for public office, are required to publicly disclose their financial interests, to remind such officials that their obligation is to put the public interest before personal considerations. The financial disclosure requirement also allows citizens the ability to monitor such public officials to ensure that public officials actions are effectuating the public interest, rather than some personal interest.¹²

Although all public officials and candidates are required to file some sort of financial disclosures, they do not all file the same degree of disclosure, nor do they all file at the same

³ Section (8)(g), art. II., Fla Const.

⁴ Section 112.322(3)(a), F.S.

⁵ Section 112.322(2)(b), F.S.

⁶ Sections 112.3215, 112.32155, F.S.

⁷ Section 112.3144, F.S.

⁸ Section 112.3144, F.S.; s. 112.3145, F.S.; s. 112.31455, F.S.

⁹ See pt. III. Ch. 112, F.S.

¹⁰ Florida Commission on Ethics, *Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*. P. 1., available at <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2026112> (last visited January 12, 2026).

¹¹ See pt. III. Ch. 112, F.S.

¹² Florida Commission on Ethics, *Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*. P.14., available at <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2026112> (last visited January 12, 2026).

time or place.¹³ The type of disclosure required depends on the type of public official or employee and the interests the disclosure is designed to protect.

Full and Public Disclosure (Form 6)

The Florida Constitution requires all elected constitutional officers, candidates for such offices, and statewide elected officers to file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests.¹⁴ Other public officers, candidates, and public employees may be required to file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests as determined by law.¹⁵

Individuals holding the following positions must presently file a Form 6: governor; lieutenant governor; cabinet members; legislators; state attorneys; public defenders; clerks of circuit courts; sheriffs; tax collectors; property appraisers; supervisors of elections; county commissioners; elected superintendents of schools; district school board members; Jacksonville City Council members (including the mayor); compensation claims judges; the Duval County superintendent of schools; Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board Members; Florida Prepaid College Board Members; and members of each expressway authority, transportation authority (except Jacksonville Transportation Authority), bridge authority, or toll authority created pursuant to ch. 348 or 343, F.S., or any other general law; Florida Commission on Ethics members; and certain local officers (mayors and elected members of the governing body of a municipality).¹⁶

Under the Florida Constitution, the term “full and public disclosure of financial interests” means the reporting individual must disclose his or her net worth and the value for each asset and liability in excess of \$1,000.¹⁷

The disclosure must be accompanied by either a sworn statement that identifies each separate source and amount of income that exceeds \$1,000 or a copy of the reporting individual’s most recent federal income tax return.¹⁸ The Florida Constitution expressly provides that the Legislature can change this definition and requirements.¹⁹

Pursuant to general law, the Commission has created by rule CE Form 6 (Form 6), which is required for filers to use to make the required full and public financial disclosure.²⁰ Reporting individuals are required to file a Form 6 annually with the Commission by July 1 through the Commission’s electronic filing system.²¹

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Section 8(a), art. II, Fla. Const.; *see ss. 112.3144(1), F.S.; R. 34-8.002, F.A.C.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ The requirement that certain local officers (mayors and elected members of the governing body of a municipality) be required to file a full and public disclosure (Form 6) is currently being challenged in federal and state litigation. *See President of Town Council Elizabeth A. Loper, elected official of the Town of Briny Breezes, et al. v. Lukis et al.* Case: 1:24-cv-20604-JAL, (United States District Court Southern District of Florida); *Town of Briny Breezes, Florida et al. v. Lukis et al.* Case Number 2024 CA 000283, (Fla. 2nd Circ. Ct., Leon County).

¹⁷ Section (8)(j)(1), art. II, Fla. Const.

¹⁸ *See* 11.3144(6)(c) and 7(a), F.S.

¹⁹ Section 8(j)(1), art. II, Fla. Const. (schedule in effect until changed by law).

²⁰ Section 112.3144(8), F.S.; *see* R. 34-8.002, F.A.C.

²¹ Section (8)(j)(1), art. II, Fla. Const.; *see s. 112.3144(2), F.S.; R. 34-8.002, F.A.C.*

The Form 6 requires filers to report their net worth, assets, and liabilities.²² The filer must report the specific identification and value of each asset which exceeds \$1,000 in value and provide the name and address of the creditor for each liability which exceeds \$1,000 in amount and its amount, and must submit a statement of the value of the reporting person's net worth as of December 31 of the preceding year or more current date.²³

Statement of Financial Interests (Form 1)

In addition to provisions governing Form 6, current law provides for a less detailed disclosure of financial interests using the Commission's CE Form 1 (Form 1).²⁴ A Form 1 was formerly required to be filed by a large group of local officers, including all officers holding elected positions in any political subdivision of the state, other than counties, and specified appointed officers.²⁵ Other persons required to file a Form 1 include specified state officers and employees and persons seeking to qualify as candidates for these specified state or local offices.²⁶

Form 1 requires filers to disclose specified information related to sources of income, real property, intangible personal property, liabilities, and interests in specified businesses.²⁷ Although no specific dollar values of incomes, property, or liabilities are required to be reported, the filer must report which assets or liabilities exceed certain dollar thresholds.²⁸ Form 1 filers must disclose: all sources of income in excess of \$2,500, excluding public salary; all sources of income from a business entity that the filer had a material interest in where their gross income was in excess of \$5,000 and in excess of 10% of the business gross income; any property, except for their residence or vacation home, in which the person owns more than 5% of the value of the property; any intangible personal property in excess of \$10,000; and any liability in excess of \$10,000.²⁹ A Form 1 must be filed annually with the Commission by July 1.³⁰

Currently, a local officer³¹ must file a Form 1 within 30 days of appointment or commission but then annually by July 1 of each year.³² State officers, local officers not required to file a Form 6, and specified state employees must file their statements of financial interests (Form 1) with the Commission.³³ Persons seeking to qualify as candidates for local public office must file their

²² See s. (8)(j), art. II, Fla. Const.; s. 112.3144(5),(6), F.S.; r. 34-8.004, F.A.C.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ See s. 112.3145, F.S.; R. 34-8.202, F.A.C.

²⁵ *Supra*, footnote 16 (the requirement that certain local officers (mayors and elected members of the governing body of a municipality must now file a Form 6, rather Form 1 is currently being challenged in multiple cases).; See s. 112.3145, F.S.; ss. 99.061(5) and 99.061(7)(a)(5), F.S.; R. 34.8.202, F.A.C.

²⁶ *Id.*; see Florida Commission on Ethics, *Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees*. P. 16-18., available at <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/GuideBookletInternet.pdf?cp=2026112> (last visited January 12, 2026).

²⁷ Section 112.3145, F.S.

²⁸ See s. 112.3145(3)(a)(b), F.S.

²⁹ Section 112.3145(3)(b), F.S.

³⁰ Section 112.3145(2)(b), F.S.

³¹ As defined in s. 112.3145(1)(b), F.S.

³² Section 112.3145(2)(b), F.S.

³³ Section 112.3145(2)(d), F.S.

statements of financial interests with the officer before whom they qualify.³⁴ Individuals required to file a Form 1 must file by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.³⁵

Amendments to Form 6 or Form 1

Instances where a filer has filed a Form 6 or Form 1 with the Commission and a complaint has been submitted against the filer in regards to the filed Form 6 or Form 1, the Commission is required to treat an amendment to a Form 6 or Form 1 by the filer which is filed before September 1 of the year in which the disclosure is due, as part of the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed.³⁶ If a complaint is filed against a filer of the Form 6 or Form 1 which contain allegations the commission finds are immaterial, inconsequential, or a de minimis error or omission, the Commission may not take any action on the complaint other than notifying the filer of the complaint.³⁷ The filer must be given 30 days to file an amendment to the Form 6 or Form 1 correcting any errors.³⁸ If the filer does not file an amendment to the Form 6 or Form 1 correcting any errors within 30 days after the Commission sends notice of the complaint, the Commission may continue with the proceedings under the Commission's complaint procedures in s. 112.324, F.S.³⁹

Penalties for Late Filing of Form 6 and Form 1

The Commission, not later than August 1 of each year, must determine which persons required to file a Form 1 have failed to do so and must send delinquency notices to these persons.⁴⁰ When a reporting individual⁴¹ fails to timely file Form 1 or Form 6 by the required due date, the Commission staff will send a notice by email notifying the delinquent person of the failure to timely file and send notices weekly by email as long as the person remains delinquent.⁴²

Filers are given a grace period until September 1, where no investigatory or disciplinary action based on delinquency will be taken if the filer submits the disclosure by September 1.⁴³

Upon the Commission determining that the Form 6 or Form 1 has not been filed on the due date, July 1, and has not been filed by the grace period deadline, September 1, the Commission staff must send a notice by email to the filer who files after September 1, or to the filer who fails to file and accrues the maximum fine amount, notifying the filer of the amount of payment due for

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Section 112.3145(8)(d), F.S.

³⁶ Section 112.3144(11)(a), F.S.; s. 112.3145(11)(a), F.S.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ Section 112.3145(8)(c), F.S.

⁴¹ See Section 112.1144(9), F.S.; s. 112.3145(9)(c), F.S. (Specifically, for persons holding public office or public employment who fail or refuse to file a Form 6 or Form 1 for any year in which the person received notice from the Commission regarding the failure to file and has accrued the maximum automatic fine authorized, regardless of whether the fine imposed was paid or collected, the Commission **must** initiate an investigation and conduct a public hearing without receipt of a complaint to determine whether the person's failure to file is willful under the procedures of s. 112.324, F.S. If the Commission determines that the person willful failed to file a Form 6 or Form 1 the Commission **must** enter an order recommending that the officer or employee be removed from his or her public office or public employment").

⁴² Rule 34-8.011(1), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210, F.A.C.

⁴³ Section 112.3144(8)(c), F.S.; Section 112.3145(8)(c), F.S.

the accrued fine and the filer's right to appeal.⁴⁴ The fine for late filing is \$25 per day for each late day, up to a maximum of \$1,500, determined by when the Form 6 or Form 1 is electronically filed on the Commission's electronic filing system.⁴⁵

The fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the Commission.⁴⁶ All fine money must be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.⁴⁷

When a fine is not appealed, or is appealed but is not waived, the Commission will enter a final order and attempt to determine whether the individual owing such fine currently serves as a public officer or employee.⁴⁸ If the individual owing the fine is a public officer or employee, the Commission may notify the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the appropriate county, municipality, or special district of the total amount of the fine and request salary withholding to recover the fine.⁴⁹ If payment of the fine cannot be obtained through salary withholding and the fine remains unpaid for more than 60 days, the Commission may refer the unpaid fine to the appropriate collection agency, as directed by the Chief Financial Officer, to utilize any collection methods provided by law.⁵⁰ If the individual owing the fine is no longer a public officer or employee or if the Commission is unable to determine whether the individual is a public officer or employee, the Commission may, six months after the final order, seek garnishment of any wages to satisfy any unpaid portion of the fine.⁵¹

Appeals of Fines

Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon "unusual circumstances"⁵² surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the Commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown.⁵³ A person who chooses to appeal or dispute a fine imposed for the late filing or failure to file Form 6 or Form 1 must file with the Commission a written notice of appeal within 30 days of the date that notice of payment due is transmitted, setting out with specificity the "unusual circumstances" surrounding the failure to file by the due date.⁵⁴ A reporting person may submit with the notice of appeal any documentation or evidence supporting his or her claim, which must be received by the Commission no later than 30 days after the date the notice of payment due is

⁴⁴ Rule 34-8.011(2), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210(2), F.A.C.

⁴⁵ Rule 34-8.011(3), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210(3), F.A.C.

⁴⁶ Rule 34-8.011(4), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210(4), F.A.C.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ Rule 34-8.011(5), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210(5), F.A.C.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ Rule 34-8.011(6), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210(6), F.A.C.

⁵¹ Rule 34-8.011(7), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.210(6), F.A.C.

⁵² See Rule 34-8.015(4), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.215(4), F.A.C. ("Unusual circumstances" means uncommon, rare or sudden events over which the reporting individual had no control and which directly result in the failure to act in accordance with the filing requirements. Circumstances which allow for time in which to take those steps necessary to assure compliance with the filing requirements shall be deemed not to constitute unusual circumstances."); *But see* s. 112.3144(8)(f)2, F.S.; s. 112.3145(8)(f)2, F.S. ("Unusual circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail account or failure to receive notice if the person has not notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail address").

⁵³ Rule 34-8.015(1), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.215(1), F.A.C.

⁵⁴ *Id.*

transmitted.⁵⁵ Failure to timely file a notice of appeal constitutes a waiver.⁵⁶ A person who seeks a hearing before the Commission must include in the notice of appeal a separate request for hearing.⁵⁷ If no separate request for hearing is filed then the Commission will make its determination based on the notice and any supporting information and this determination shall be final agency action.⁵⁸

Automatic Waiver of Fines

Currently, there are no automatic one-time waiver of fines for a filer who is late for the first time in filing his or her financial disclosure. In contrast, lobbying firms that are required to file timely compensation reports are eligible under the law to receive a one-time waiver for failing to timely file required compensation reports.⁵⁹

III. Changes:

SB 1622 provides a one-time waiver of the automatic fine levied against a reporting individual for filing his or her Form 6 or Form 1 financial disclosures late with the Commission on Ethics, if:

- The reporting individual filed his or her Form 6 or Form 1 late but before the maximum automatic fine accrued for that filing year;
- The reporting person has not in past years accrued the maximum automatic fine for the late filing of a Form 6 or Form 1; and
- The reporting person has not previously received in past years a waiver of an automatic fine relating to the late filing of a Form 6 or Form 1.

The bill's provisions apply to fines that begin to accrue after September 1, 2026.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ Rule 34-8.015(2), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.215(2), F.A.C.

⁵⁷ Rule 34-8.015(3), F.A.C.; Rule 34-8.215(3), F.A.C.

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ See s. 112.3215(5)(d)4, F.S. ("A fine shall not be assessed against a lobbying firm the first time any reports for which the lobbying firm is responsible are not timely filed. However, to receive the one-time fine waiver, all reports for which the lobbying firm is responsible must be filed within 30 days after the notice that any reports have not been timely filed is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office. A fine shall be assessed for any subsequent late-filed reports").

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There may be an indeterminate impact on the revenue collected by the Commission for the late filing fees that go to the General Revenue Fund if all reporting individuals are given a waiver for their first late financial disclosure filing. Although, this may be offset by the cost of man hours and time spent by the Commission in hearing first time appeals and in the effort to collect fines.⁶⁰

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 112.3144 and 112.3145.

⁶⁰ See *Legislative Recommendations for 2026, Commission on Ethics* (September 18, 2025), available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/7839> (The first-time fine waiver for financial disclosures is a recommendation made by the Commission on Ethics. The Commission believes implementing such waiver would increase efficiency by reducing the number of fine appeals Commission staff will have to process and will also comport with the Commission's ultimate goal of achieving a filing by the filer at issue).

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00762A-26

20261622

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to penalties for late-filed disclosures or statements of financial interests; amending ss. 112.3144 and 112.3145, F.S.; prohibiting the assessment of a fine for a reporting person's first late filing of a disclosure or statement of financial interests if certain conditions are met; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (8) of section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial interests.—

(8) Forms or fields of information for compliance with the full and public disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution must be prescribed by the commission. The commission shall allow a filer to include attachments or other supporting documentation when filing a disclosure. The commission shall give notice of disclosure deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the following manner:

(f) Except as provided in subparagraph 3., a Any person who is required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests and whose name is on the commission's list, and to whom notice has been sent, but who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of \$25 per day for each day late up to a maximum of \$1,500; however this \$1,500 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be imposed if the

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20261622

statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the fine and the procedures by which each person whose name is on the list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific that the amount of the fine due is based upon when the disclosure is filed on the electronic filing system created and maintained by the commission as provided in s. 112.31446.

1. Upon receipt of the disclosure statement or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 2. Such fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 2. The moneys shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

2. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in writing and received by the commission within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the

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commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, "unusual circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail account or failure to receive notice if the person has not notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail address.

3. A fine may not be assessed against a reporting person the first time a full and public disclosure of financial interests for which he or she is responsible for filing is not timely filed if the full and public disclosure of financial interests was filed before the reporting person accrued the maximum automatic fine for that filing year and the reporting person has not previously received a waiver of an automatic fine pursuant to this subparagraph or s. 112.3145(8)(f)3. The automatic fine shall be assessed, however, if the reporting person has in a previous year accrued the maximum automatic fine pursuant to this subparagraph or s. 112.3145(8)(f), or if he or she has previously received a waiver of an automatic fine pursuant to this subparagraph or s. 112.3145(8)(f)3. This subparagraph applies to fines that began to accrue pursuant to this paragraph after September 1, 2026.

Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (8) of section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3145 Disclosure of financial interests and clients represented before agencies.—

(8) Beginning January 1, 2024, forms for compliance with the disclosure requirements of this section and a current list of persons subject to disclosure must be created by the commission. The commission shall allow a filer to include attachments or other supporting documentation when filing a

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disclosure. Beginning January 1, 2024, the commission shall give notice of disclosure deadlines, delinquencies, and instructions in the following manner:

(f) Except as provided in subparagraph 3., a ~~any~~ person required to file a statement of financial interests whose name is on the commission's list, and to whom notice has been sent, but who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of \$25 per day for each day late up to a maximum of \$1,500; however, this \$1,500 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the fine and procedures by which each person whose name is on the list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific that the amount of the fine is based upon the date and time that the disclosure is filed on the electronic filing system as provided in s. 112.31446.

1. Beginning January 1, 2024, for a specified state employee, state officer, or local officer, upon receipt of the disclosure statement by the commission or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 2. The fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 2. The moneys are to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

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117 2. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based
 118 upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on
 119 the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a
 120 hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole
 121 or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in
 122 writing and received by the commission within 30 days after the
 123 notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the
 124 reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the
 125 person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing
 126 of his or her intention to bring the matter before the
 127 commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unusual
 128 circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail
 129 account or failure to receive notice if the person has not
 130 notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail
 131 address.

132 3. A fine may not be assessed against a reporting person
 133 the first time a statement of financial interests for which he
 134 or she is responsible for filing is not timely filed if the
 135 statement of financial interests was filed before the reporting
 136 person accrued the maximum automatic fine for that filing year
 137 and the reporting person has not previously received a waiver of
 138 an automatic fine pursuant to this subparagraph or s.
 139 112.3144(8)(f)3. The automatic fine shall be assessed, however,
 140 if the reporting person has in a previous year accrued the
 141 maximum automatic fine pursuant to this subparagraph or s.
 142 112.3144(8)(f), or if he or she previously received a waiver of
 143 an automatic fine pursuant to this subparagraph or s.
 144 112.3144(8)(f)3. This subparagraph applies to fines that began
 145 to accrue pursuant to this paragraph after September 1, 2026.

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146 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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Steve Zilkowski

The Florida Senate

January 28, 2026

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 1622

Meeting Date

Ethics and Elections

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Kerrie Stillman, Executive Director**

Phone **850-524-0625**

Address **325 John Knox Road, Bldg E, Suite 200**

Email **stillman.kerrie@leg.state.fl.us**

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32303

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Florida Commission on Ethics

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Dedge, Gerald, Jr. Appointed: 09/30/2025
 Term: 09/30/2025 – 01/04/2027 Prior Term:
 City/County: St. Augustine/St. Johns
 Office: St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority, Member
 Authority: 02-347, s. 3, L.O.F.
 Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
 Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)	X		See Below
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 1/12/26
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 1/7/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Reimbursed for travel and other expenses from authority funds.

Requirements: The board consists of five persons who reside within the boundaries of the Airport Authority District, none of whom is an officer or employee of the City of St. Augustine, St. Johns County, or the State of Florida, except that members of the militia or notaries public may be members, and no more than two of whom are primarily engaged in the aviation business. Vacancies in office shall be filled by appointment of the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 6 - Mr. Dedge served in the Army and Florida National Guard 1979-2021.
Number 18 - Mr. Dedge was a Captain in the Saint Johns County Sheriffs Office 2020-2021. Mr. Dedge was a Reserve Deputy for the Saint Johns County Sheriffs Office for 23 years prior.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Dipola, Mario

Appointed: 09/30/2025

Term: 09/30/2025 – 01/01/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: Ponte Vedra Beach/St. Johns

Office: St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority, Member

Authority: 02-347, s. 3, L.O.F.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 10/30/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/2/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: State Transportation Leader - North Florida at Gresham Smith

Compensation: Reimbursed for travel and other expenses from authority funds.

Requirements: The board consists of five persons who reside within the boundaries of the Airport Authority District, none of whom is an officer or employee of the City of St. Augustine, St. Johns County, or the State of Florida, except that members of the militia or notaries public may be members, and no more than two of whom are primarily engaged in the aviation business. Vacancies in office shall be filled by appointment of the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 15 - Mr. Dipola disclosed his employer, Gresham Smith, are consultants to the Department of Transportation and other agencies, but none with St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority.
Number 19 - Mr. Dipola worked for the Department of Transportation 2014-2018.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Primrose, Nicholas
 Term: 09/30/2025 – 01/01/2029
 City/County: St. Augustine/St. Johns
 Office: St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority, Member
 Authority: 02-347, s. 3, L.O.F.
 Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
 Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 1/10/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/2/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Reimbursed for travel and other expenses from authority funds.

Requirements: The board consists of five persons who reside within the boundaries of the Airport Authority District, none of whom is an officer or employee of the City of St. Augustine, St. Johns County, or the State of Florida, except that members of the militia or notaries public may be members, and no more than two of whom are primarily engaged in the aviation business. Vacancies in office shall be filled by appointment of the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 17 - Mr. Primrose is the Director of SelectFlorida, since 2023.
Number 18 - Mr. Primrose served as the Chair of the Florida Elections Commission 2021-2023
Number 19 - Mr. Primrose is the Chief of Regulatory Compliance at the Jacksonville Port Authority. Mr. Primrose is the Director of SelectFlorida, since December 2023. Mr. Primrose was the Deputy General Counsel for the Executive Officer of the Governor 2017-2020.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: James, Jason

Appointed: 07/11/2025

Term: 07/18/2025 – 04/16/2028

Prior Term:

City/County: Apopka/Orange

Office: Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Member

Authority: 98-491, s. 3(1), L.O.F.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 12/10/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 10/14/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President of Mechanical One

Compensation: Reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket, travel and per diem expenses incurred while attending authority meetings, other meetings on behalf of the authority, or while engaged in the business of the authority.

Requirements: The authority consists of seven members who shall be elected or appointed as follows:

- One incumbent member of the Orlando City Council;
- One incumbent member of the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County;
- Five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, including:
 - three members who are residents and electors of Orange County;
 - one member who is a resident and elector of Osceola County; and,
 - one member who is a resident and elector of Orange or Seminole County.

Members may not be employees of the City of Orlando or Orange County. No person transacting business with the authority, or who can be reasonably expected to transact business with the authority, for himself or as an employee of, agent for, or consultant to any other person or legal entity shall be appointed to the authority. Each appointed member of the authority shall be a person of integrity, responsibility and business ability and who is competent and knowledgeable in one or more fields including, but not limited to: public affairs, law, economics, accounting, engineering, finance, natural resource conservation, energy or another field substantially related to the functions and duties of the authority. It is desirable, but not essential, that one or more appointed members be experienced in some aviation-related field.

Additional Terms are for four years.

Requirements: Members may be reappointed; except no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms or eight consecutive years, whichever is greater. Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Orange County Resident

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Zonka, Kristine

Appointed: 10/17/2025

Term: 10/17/2025 – 05/31/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: Indialantic/Brevard

Office: Board of Trustees of Eastern Florida State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/3/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Administrator/Health Officer for the Department of Health in Brevard County

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Eastern Florida State College serves Brevard County.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.
Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Notes: Number 8 - Represents Brevard County
Number 17 - Mrs. Zonka is an Administrator/Health Officer for the Department of Health in Brevard County, since 2023.
Number 18 - Mrs. Zonka served on the Palm Bay City Council 2007-2010. Mrs. Zonka served on the Brevard County Commission 2016-2023.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

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A285J

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Juarez, Jose A.

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 05/31/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: Ocala/Marion

Office: Board of Trustees of College of Central Florida, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 9/9/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: CEO of Victory Solutions

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

College of Central Florida serves Citrus, Levy, and Marion Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Marion County Resident

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

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A335M

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Morris, Timothy

Appointed: 10/17/2025

Term: 10/17/2025 – 05/31/2029

Prior Term: 08/26/2022 - 05/31/2025

City/County: Leesburg/Lake

Office: Board of Trustees of Lake-Sumter State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 6 filed as of 6/12/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Vice President of Ernie Morris Enterprises, Inc. (office supplies)

Attendance: Attended 40 of 43 meetings (93%) from August 26, 2022 through December 3, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Lake-Sumter State College serves Lake and Sumter Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Lake County Resident

Number 15 - Mr. Morris disclosed his employer, Ernie Morris Ent., represents State contract manufactures but does not hold the contracts.

Number 17 - Mr. Morris is a Lake County Commissioner, since 2024.

Number 18 - Mr. Morris served on the Lake County Planning and Zoning Commission 2001-2017.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Deckard, Lon

Appointed: 06/27/2025

Term: 06/27/2025 – 05/31/2028

Prior Term:

City/County: Sarasota/Sarasota

Office: Board of Trustees of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)	X		See Below
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 1/12/26
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record			Not Applicable
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President of Quadrel, Inc.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.
A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes: Number 6 - Mr. Deckard served in the US Navy 1968-1974.
Number 8 - Sarasota County Resident

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Bileca, Michael

Appointed: 09/11/2025

Term: 09/11/2025 – 05/31/2029

Prior Term: 04/28/2022 - 05/31/2025

City/County: Miami/Miami-Dade

Office: Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 7/2/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/2/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Executive Director at the Dennis Bileca Institute for Character and Excellence

Attendance: Attended 40 of 42 meetings (95%) from April 28, 2022 through November 17, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Miami Dade College serves Miami-Dade County.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Miami-Dade County Resident

Number 18 - Mr. Bileca served in the Florida House of Representatives 2010-2018.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Diaz, Jose Felix

Appointed: 09/11/2025

Term: 09/11/2025 – 05/31/2027

Prior Term:

City/County: Coral Gables/Miami-Dade

Office: Board of Trustees of Miami-Dade College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 10/13/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Executive Vice President of Ballard Partners

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Miami Dade College serves Miami-Dade County.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 15 - Mr. Diaz disclosed his employer, Ballard Partners, is a full-service government affairs firm with multiple contracts with government agencies including, but not limited to , the City of Miami, the Miami Dade School Board, and the City of Miami Beach.

Number 18 - Mr. Diaz served in the Florida House of Representatives 2010-2016.

COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: McWaters, Michael Steven

Appointed: 08/18/2025

Term: 08/18/2025 – 05/31/2027

Prior Term:

City/County: Live Oak/Suwannee

Office: Board of Trustees of North Florida College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 9/3/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Executive Vice President & CEO of Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

North Florida College serves Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes:

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

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A360C

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Caruso, Tracy Lee

Appointed: 06/27/2025

Term: 06/27/2025 – 05/31/2027

Prior Term:

City/County: Delray Beach/Palm Beach

Office: Board of Trustees of Palm Beach State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 7/25/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 1/7/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President/Owner of Delray Beach Executive Suites, Inc.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.
A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Palm Beach State College serves Palm Beach County.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Palm Beach County Resident
Number 17 - Mrs. Caruso is serving on the Palm Beach County Health Care District, since 2022. Mrs. Caruso is serving on the Palm Beach County Housing & Finance Authority, since 2021.
Number 18 - Mrs. Caruso served on the Delray Beach Historic Preservation Society 2018-2018.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

12
A365B

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Bell, Ralph E.

Appointed: 05/01/2025

Term: 05/01/2025 – 05/31/2027

Prior Term:

City/County: Brooksville/Hernando

Office: Board of Trustees of Pasco-Hernando State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)	X		See Below
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 5/30/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Owner of Snow & Bell, Inc.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.
A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Pasco-Hernando State College serves Hernando and Pasco Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes: Number 6 - Mr. Bell served in the US Army 1969-1971.
Number 8 - Hernando County Resident

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Wilson, Kirk E.

Appointed: 05/01/2025

Term: 05/01/2025 – 05/31/2026

Prior Term:

City/County: Brooksville/Hernando

Office: Board of Trustees of Pasco-Hernando State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/3/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 1/7/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Managing Member of Green Acres Outdoor Power Equipment

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.
A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Pasco-Hernando State College serves Hernando and Pasco Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes: Number 8 - Hernando County Resident

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Lester, Charles S.

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 05/31/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: Winter Haven/Polk

Office: Board of Trustees of Polk State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/9/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/2/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.
A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Polk State College serves Polk County.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes: Number 8 - Polk County Resident
Number 19 - Mr. Lester is the Chief of Staff at the Polk County Sheriff's Office, since 2010. Mr. Lester has worked for the Sheriff's Office since 1996.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Troutman, Ashley C.

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 05/31/2026

Prior Term: 06/30/2023 - 05/31/2025

City/County: Lakeland/Polk

Office: Board of Trustees of Polk State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 7/2/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 1/7/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Attendance: Attended 23 of 24 meetings (96%) from June 30, 2023 through December 18, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Polk State College serves Polk County.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes: Number 8 - Polk County Resident

Number 19 - Mr. Troutman was a Substitute Teacher for the Polk County Public Schools 2004-2006.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Brown, Monesia

Appointed: 07/22/2025

Term: 07/22/2025 – 05/31/2029

Prior Term: 07/26/2024 - 05/31/2025

City/County: Tallahassee/Leon

Office: Board of Trustees of Tallahassee State College, Member

Authority: 1001.61(1) and (2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/30/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Attendance: Attended 11 of 13 meetings (85%) from July 26, 2024 through December 3, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S., including mileage to and from official board meetings.

Requirements: Florida College System institution boards of trustees shall be appointed by the Governor and comprised of:

Five members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district.

Seven members when a Florida College System institution district is confined to one school board district and the board of trustees so elect.

Not more than nine members when the district contains two or more school board districts.

Additional Requirements: Trustees shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years.

A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college.

Tallahassee Community College serves Gadsden, Leon, and Wakulla Counties.

It is the duty of the chair to notify the Governor, in writing, when a board member fails to attend three consecutive regular board meetings in any one fiscal year; absences may be grounds for removal.

Required to file Form 1.

Notes: Number 18 - Mrs. Brown served on the State Board of Education 2021-2024. Mrs. Brown served on the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend 2009-2019. Mrs. Brown served on the 1st District Courts of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission 2003-2008.
Number 19 - Mrs. Brown worked as the Director, Florida Agency for workforce Innovation 2006-2009. Mrs. Brown worked for the Department of Management services beginning in 2000 as a Senior Attorney and then the General Counsel 2001-2003. Mrs. Brown was an Assistant General Counsel for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation 1999-2000.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Powell, Cody

Appointed: 09/19/2025

Term: 09/19/2025 – 07/01/2026

Prior Term:

City/County: Riverview/Hillsborough

Office: Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, Member

Authority: 348.52(2)(a), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 6 filed as of 1/20/26
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Broker/Owner of Powell Realty

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The authority consists of seven members, as follows:

- Four members who are appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation;
- One member who is the Mayor of Tampa or the mayor's designee, serving as a member ex officio;
- One member who is a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, serving as a member ex officio; and
- One member who is a district secretary of the Department of Transportation from the district which contains Hillsborough County, serving as a member ex officio.

Additional Terms are for four years.

Requirements: Required to file Form 6 with Commission on Ethics.

Notes: Number 8 - Governor Appointee

Number 18 - Mr. Powell served on the Hillsborough Planning Commission 2018-2022, the Hillsborough Land Use Appeals Board 2017-2021, the Hillsborough Affordable Housing Board 2019--2022, and the Hillsborough TPO 2021-2022.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

16

A1190B

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Blow, John Carl

Appointed: 09/26/2025

Term: 09/26/2025 – 01/09/2029

Prior Term: 04/02/2021 - 01/09/2025

City/County: St. Augustine/St. Johns

Office: Florida Inland Navigation District, Member

Authority: 374.983, F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)	X		See Below
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 5/20/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 10/31/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Owner, Great Oaks Properties (Real Estate Management)

Attendance: Attended 60 of 60 meetings (100%) from April 2, 2021 through October 16, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The Florida Inland Navigation District is a special taxing district composed of 12 members, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate.

One member shall be appointed for each of the following counties:

- Brevard
- Broward;
- Miami-Dade;
- Duval;
- Flagler;
- Indian River;
- Martin;
- Nassau;
- Palm Beach;
- St. Johns;
- St. Lucie; and
- Volusia.

No two members shall reside in the same county in the district.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Commencing on January 10, 1997, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties and on January 10, 1999, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Brevard, Miami-Dade, Duval, Flagler, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties. The Governor shall appoint the commissioner from Nassau County for an initial term that coincides with the period remaining in the current terms of the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. Thereafter, the commissioner from Nassau County shall be appointed to a 4-year term.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 6 - Mr. Blow served in the U.S. Navy in 1980.
Number 8 - St. Johns County Resident
Number 17 - Mr. Blow has been serving on the St. Augustine Planning & Zoning Board since 2004.
Number 18 - Mr. Blow served on the Florida Inland Navigation District from 2009-1/2021. Mr. Blow served on the St. Johns County Industrial Development Authority from 2012 to 2016. Mr. Blow served on the St. Augustine Port Waterway & Beach District, 2006-2010.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Boehning, Stephen W.

Appointed: 09/26/2025

Term: 09/26/2025 – 01/09/2029

Prior Term: 04/02/2021 - 01/09/2025

City/County: Vero Beach/Indian River

Office: Florida Inland Navigation District, Member

Authority: 374.983, F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 7/1/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President and Principal Engineer at Coastal Waterways Design & Engineering LLC

Attendance: Attended 33 of 41 meetings (80%) from April 2, 2021 through November 25, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The Florida Inland Navigation District is a special taxing district composed of 12 members, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate.

One member shall be appointed for each of the following counties:

- Brevard
- Broward;
- Miami-Dade;
- Duval;
- Flagler;
- Indian River;
- Martin;
- Nassau;
- Palm Beach;
- St. Johns;
- St. Lucie; and
- Volusia.

No two members shall reside in the same county in the district.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Commencing on January 10, 1997, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties and on January 10, 1999, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Brevard, Miami-Dade, Duval, Flagler, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties. The Governor shall appoint the commissioner from Nassau County for an initial term that coincides with the period remaining in the current terms of the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. Thereafter, the commissioner from Nassau County shall be appointed to a 4-year term.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Resident of Indian River County

Number 15 - Mr. Boehning disclosed that his company, CoastalWide, LLC, has consulting contracts with Indian River County, the Town of Orchid, the City of Sebastian, and the Town of Indian River Shores.

Number 18 - Mr. Boehning served on the Indian River County Code Enforcement Board 2008-2021.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Davenport, James "Buddy"

Appointed: 09/26/2025

Term: 09/26/2025 – 01/09/2029

Prior Term: 04/02/2021 - 01/09/2025

City/County: New Smyrna Beach/Volusia

Office: Florida Inland Navigation District, Member

Authority: 374.983, F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/26/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 11/13/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Insurance Agent at State Farm

Attendance: Attended 38 of 39 meetings (97%) from April 2, 2021 through November 13, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The Florida Inland Navigation District is a special taxing district composed of 12 members, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate.

One member shall be appointed for each of the following counties:

- Brevard
- Broward;
- Miami-Dade;
- Duval;
- Flagler;
- Indian River;
- Martin;
- Nassau;
- Palm Beach;
- St. Johns;
- St. Lucie; and
- Volusia.

No two members shall reside in the same county in the district.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Commencing on January 10, 1997, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties and on January 10, 1999, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Brevard, Miami-Dade, Duval, Flagler, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties. The Governor shall appoint the commissioner from Nassau County for an initial term that coincides with the period remaining in the current terms of the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. Thereafter, the commissioner from Nassau County shall be appointed to a 4-year term.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Resident of Volusia County

Number 18 - Mr. Davenport served on the Utilities Commission of New Smyrna Beach 2018-2025.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Morgan, Thomas A.

Appointed: 09/26/2025

Term: 09/26/2025 – 01/09/2027

Prior Term:

City/County: Cocoa/Brevard

Office: Florida Inland Navigation District, Member

Authority: 374.983, F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 10/7/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report		X	
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 11/19/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Chief of Operations at Miami-Dade Parks

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The Florida Inland Navigation District is a special taxing district composed of 12 members, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate.

One member shall be appointed for each of the following counties:

- Brevard
- Broward;
- Miami-Dade;
- Duval;
- Flagler;
- Indian River;
- Martin;
- Nassau;
- Palm Beach;
- St. Johns;
- St. Lucie; and
- Volusia.

No two members shall reside in the same county in the district.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years. Commencing on January 10, 1997, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties and on January 10, 1999, the Governor shall appoint the commissioners from Brevard, Miami-Dade, Duval, Flagler, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties. The Governor shall appoint the commissioner from Nassau County for an initial term that coincides with the period remaining in the current terms of the commissioners from Broward, Indian River, Martin, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. Thereafter, the commissioner from Nassau County shall be appointed to a 4-year term.

Required to file Form 1 with the SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Represents Brevard

Number 19 - Mr. Morgan works for the Miami-Dade Parks Department, since 2012.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

17

A1845C

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Conner, William Theodore

Appointed: 10/24/2025

Term: 11/26/2025 – 11/25/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: Tampa/Hillsborough

Office: Tampa Port Authority, Member

Authority: 95-488, L.O.F. & 05-332, L.O.F.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 5/21/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Members may not be compensated by the port authority for their services but may be otherwise reimbursed for travel as provided by this act.

- Requirements:** The port authority shall consist of seven member seats with Seats 1 through 5 appointed by the Governor.
- The numerical assignment of Seats 1, 2, and 3 shall be designated by the port authority and appointed by the Governor.
 - Members occupying Seat 4 and Seat 5 shall be appointed from a list of persons who have maritime industry backgrounds, notwithstanding any provision of general law to the contrary, nominated for that purpose by a nominating committee and as otherwise provided by this act.

The Governor shall make appointments through the standard application process if no nominations for Seat 4 or Seat 5 are received from the nominating committee.

- Seat 6 shall be occupied by a member of the board of county commissioners, appointed by that board, ex officio.
- Seat 7 shall be occupied by the Mayor of the City of Tampa, ex officio.

Each appointed member of the port authority must be a qualified elector of the county.

Additional Requirements: Terms shall be for four years.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Hillsborough County Elector
Number 15 - Elector of Hillsborough County - Represents Seat 3

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

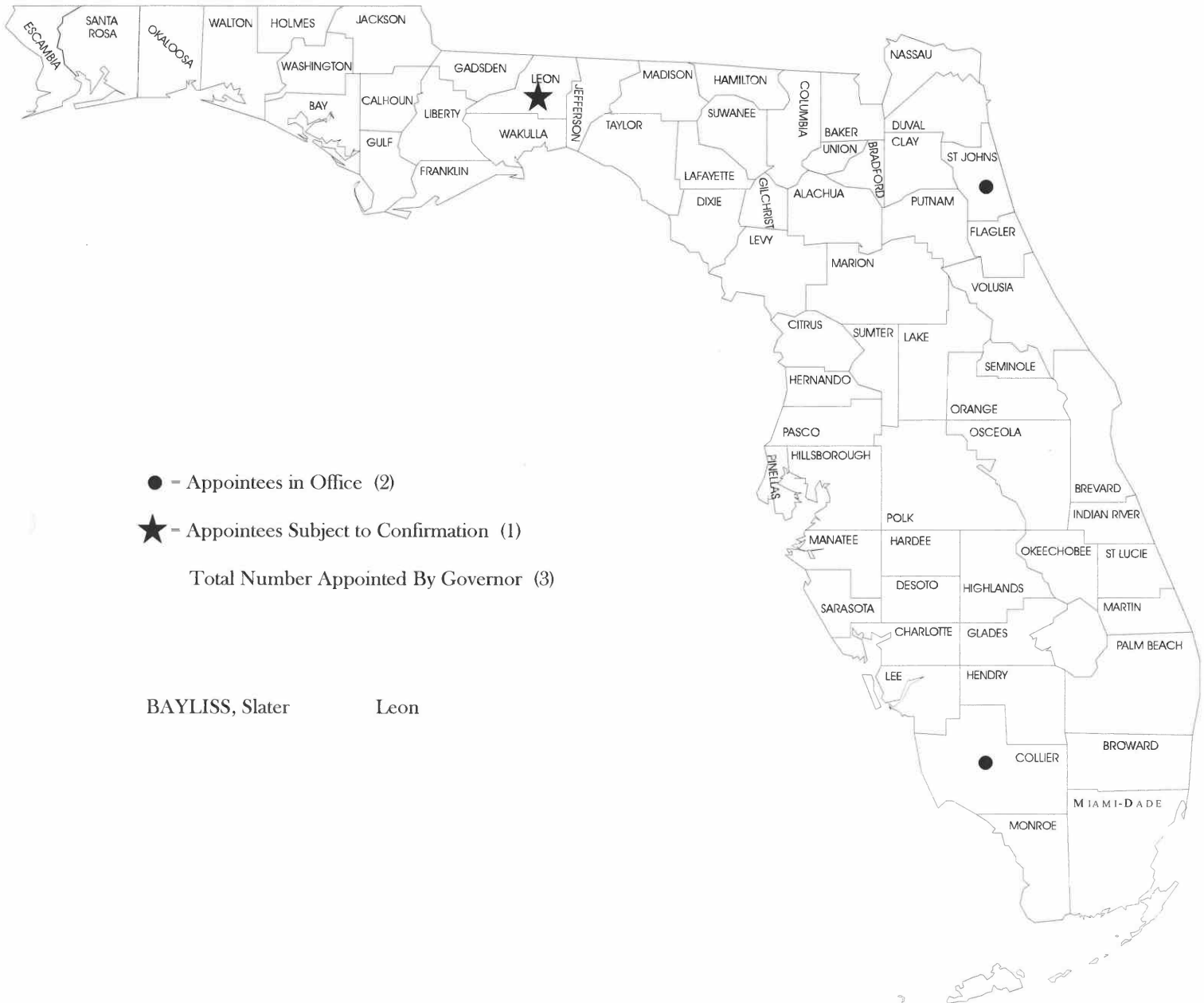
Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Florida Prepaid College Board



Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Bayliss, Slater

Appointed: 09/26/2025

Term: 09/26/2025 – 06/30/2028

Prior Term: 01/14/2022 - 06/30/2025

City/County: Tallahassee/Leon

Office: Florida Prepaid College Board, Member

Authority: 1009.971(2), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/27/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law		X	
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist			

Occupation: Partner at The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners (Consulting)

Attendance: Attended 16 of 17 meetings (94%) from January 14, 2022 through December 3, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.

- Requirements:** The board shall consist of seven members composed of the following:
- The Attorney General;
 - The Chief Financial Officer;
 - The Chancellor of the State University System;
 - The Chancellor of the Division of Florida Colleges; and
 - Three members, appointed by the Governor, with knowledge, skill, and experience in the areas of accounting, actuary, risk management, or investment management.

Each non-appointed member may name a designee to serve on the board on behalf of the member, who must meet the qualifications of gubernatorial appointees to the board.

Additional Requirements: Members appointed by the Governor shall serve terms of three years.

Each member of the board who is not otherwise required to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

Required to file a Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

Notes: Number 15 - Mr. Bayliss disclosed that his firm as a contractual relationship as legislative council with Pasco, Okaloosa, Lee, and Citrus Counties.
Number 19 - Mr. Bayliss was the Special Assistant to Florida Governor Jeb Bush 2000-2003.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

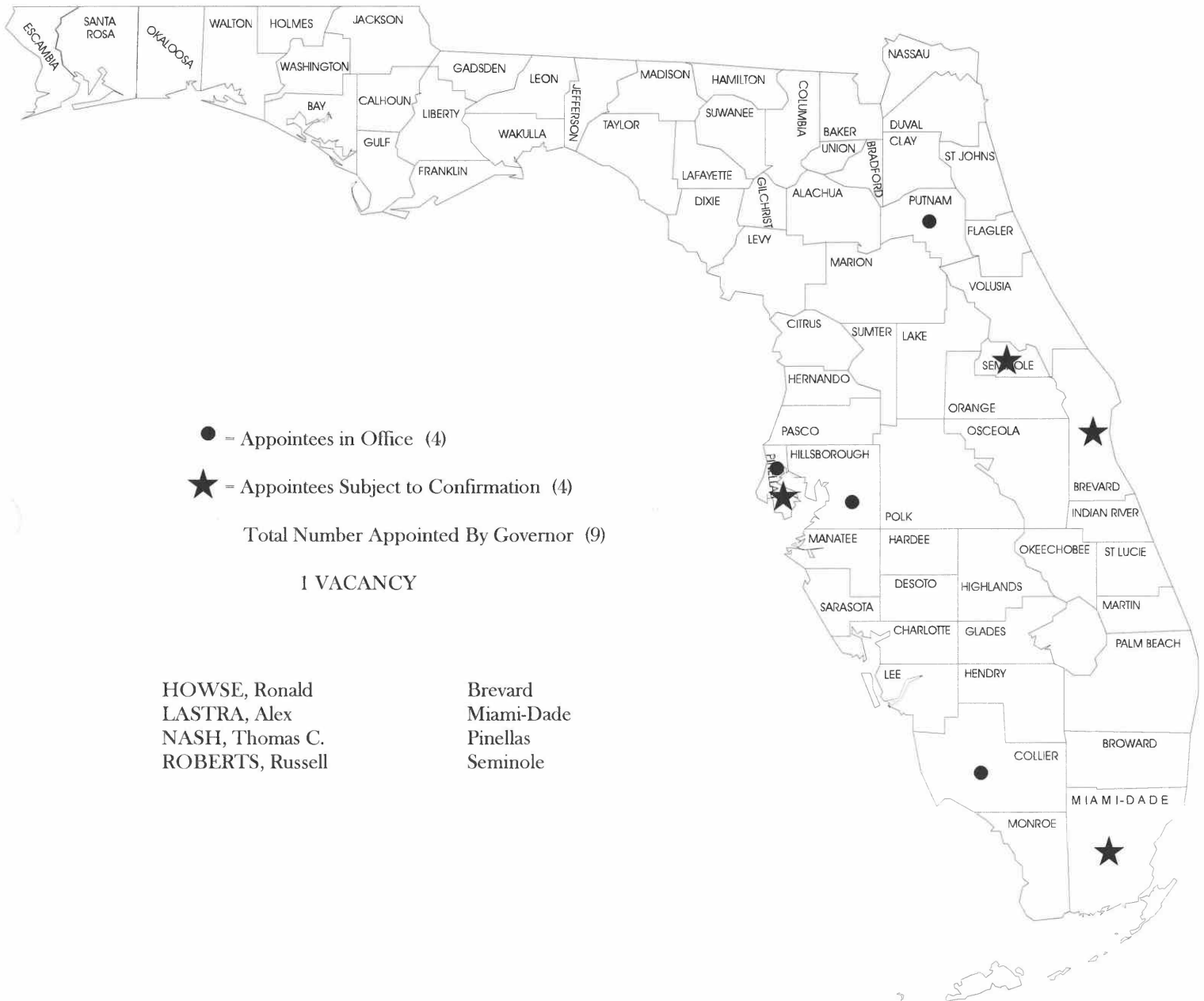
Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Florida Transportation Commission



Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Lastra, Alex

Appointed: 07/22/2025

Term: 07/22/2025 – 09/30/2027

Prior Term: 02/14/2025 - 09/30/2027

City/County: Miami/Miami-Dade

Office: Florida Transportation Commission, Member

Authority: 20.23(2)(a)1, F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Transportation-Recommend Confirm-01/20/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/23/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record	X		See Below
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/18/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Managing member of Desarrollo Florida, LLC

Attendance: Attended 4 of 4 meetings (100%) from February 14, 2025 through August 13, 2025.

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The nine-member commission, who is appointed by the Governor, consists of registered voters and citizens of the state who are appointed to equitably represent all geographic areas of the state.

Each member of the commission must possess business managerial experience in the private sector.

A member may not have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, franchise, privilege, or other benefit granted or awarded by the department during the appointment and for two years after the termination of the appointment.

Additional Terms are for four years.

Requirements: Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

Notes: Number 9 - Mr. Lastra disclosed on his Senate Questionnaire that in Miami, he was found guilty of Driving Under the Influence in Miami, 2003. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reported this.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Crossman, John M.

Appointed: 11/10/2025

Term: 01/07/2026 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term: 06/22/2023 - 01/06/2026

City/County: Orlando/Orange

Office: Board of Trustees, Florida A & M University, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 7/20/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President of CrossMarc Services Chief Executive Officer at Crossman Career Builders

Attendance: Attended 28 of 31 meetings (90%) from June 22, 2023 through December 3, 2025.

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 17 - Mr. Crossman is serving on the Orlando Housing Authority, since 2022.
Number 18 - Mr. Crossman served on the Board of Trustees, Valencia College 2014-2018. Mr. Crossman served on the Orange County Community Service Board 2020-2022.
Number 19 - Mr. Crossman Interned at Florida State University 1989-1991. Mr. Crossman also was an intern for Palm Beach County 1987-1989.
Education Verified

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

21

A3005M

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: McCleneghen, Joseph Scott

Appointed: 11/10/2025

Term: 01/07/2026 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term: 12/19/2024 - 01/06/2026

City/County: Boca Raton/Palm Beach

Office: Board of Trustees, Florida Atlantic University, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 4/7/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: EVP of First Horizon Bank

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes:

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Stilley, Samantha

Appointed: 11/10/2025

Term: 01/07/2026 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term:

City/County: Jupiter/Palm Beach

Office: Board of Trustees, Florida Atlantic University, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 12/12/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: VP of Operations and Strategy for HeartCare Imaging

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 8 - Board of Governors' Appointment
Number 15 - Ms. Stilley disclosed her employer, HeartCare Imaging, has contracts with University of Florida and the University of South Florida.
Education Verified

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

22
A3015W

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Weisheyer, Timothy

Appointed: 07/11/2025

Term: 08/30/2025 – 01/06/2030

Prior Term:

City/County: Orlando/Orange

Office: Board of Trustees, Florida State University, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 9/28/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 8 - Orange County Resident
Number 17 - Mr. Weisheyer is serving on the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, since 2022.
Number 18 - Mr. Weisheyer served on the Osceola County School Board 2012-2020.
Education Verified

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Karp, Lance

Appointed: 11/10/2025

Term: 01/07/2026 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term: 01/07/2021 - 01/06/2026

City/County: Sarasota/Sarasota

Office: Board of Trustees, New College of Florida, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1) & 1004.32, F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/25/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Attendance: Attended 43 of 45 meetings (96%) from January 7, 2021 through December 3, 2025.

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 8 - Board of Governors' Appointment
Education Verified

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Peace, Eliot B.

Appointed: 05/15/2025

Term: 05/15/2025 – 07/15/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: Dunedin/Pinellas

Office: Board of Trustees, Florida Polytechnic University, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			No Report; See Below
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 9/2/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/2/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

Notes: Number 6 - Mr. Peace served in the US Air Force 2012-2017. Mr. Peace is a Judge Advocate in the US Air Force Reserves.
Number 8 - Board of Governors' Appointment

COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Griffin, Michael E.

Appointed: 11/10/2025

Term: 11/06/2025 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term: 01/07/2020 - 01/06/2025

City/County: Tampa/Hillsborough

Office: Board of Trustees, University of South Florida, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 5/21/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Co-Head of Florida Region of Savills Occupier Services (commercial real estate)

Attendance: Attended 69 of 73 meetings (95%) from January 7, 2020 through December 3, 2025.

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Beginning July 2, 2020, for purposes of this subsection, regional representation shall include the chair of a campus board established pursuant to s. 1004.341, F.S.

A member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida who resides in Pinellas County shall jointly serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and as chair of the campus board.

- A member of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida who resides in Manatee County or Sarasota County shall be selected by the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida to serve jointly as a member of the Board of Trustees and as chair of the campus board.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 8 - Board of Governors' Appointment
Number 15 - Mr. Griffin disclosed that his company Savills Occupier Services has a contractual relationship with the Department of Management Services.
Number 18 - Mr. Griffin served on the Tampa Port Authority 2017-2019.
Education Verified

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

26

A3050P

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Patel, Kashane Jay

Appointed: 11/06/2025

Term: 01/07/2026 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term:

City/County: Pensacola/Escambia

Office: Board of Trustees, University of West Florida, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 12/11/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Founder/Attorney of KJP Counsel, PLLC

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 8 - Board of Governors' Appointment
Education Verified

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Perkins-Gilley, Janice

Appointed: 11/10/2025

Term: 01/07/2026 – 01/06/2031

Prior Term:

City/County: Molino/Escambia

Office: Board of Trustees, University of West Florida, Member

Authority: 1001.71(1), F.S.

Reference(s): Appropriations Committee on Higher Education-Recommend Confirm-01/21/2026
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 1/5/26
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			No Report
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 12/10/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Administrative Services Director, Santa Rosa County

Compensation: Members of the board of trustees shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: Each university in the State University System shall have a 13-member board of trustees.

- Six citizen members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.
- Five citizen members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors subject to Senate confirmation.

In addition, the chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

There shall be no state residency requirement for university board members, but the Governor shall consider diversity and regional representation.

Additional Requirements: Members of the board of trustees shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.

Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

No citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

Notes: Number 18 - Ms. Perkins-Gilley served on Santa Rosa County Commission 2002-2004. Ms. Perkins-Gilley served on the Santa Rosa County School Board in 1999. Ms. Perkins-Gilley served on the SRIA Board 2012-2019 and the RC&D Board 1993-2007.

Number 19 - Ms. Perkins-Gilley worked for the Florida House of Representative multiple years 1992-2009. Ms. Perkins-Gilley was a Policy Director for in the Executive Office of the Governor 2005-2006. Ms. Perkins-Gilley was Assistant Vice President of External Affairs & Governmental Relations 2009-2019. Ms. Perkins-Gilley was a County Administrator for Escambia County 2019-2021. Ms. Perkins-Gilley Worked for the Florida Senate 2021-2024. Ms. Perkins-Gilley is the Administrative Services Director for Santa Rosa County, since 2024.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37
Caption: Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

Type:
Judge:

Started: 1/28/2026 10:34:13 AM
Ends: 1/28/2026 11:06:37 AM **Length:** 00:32:24

10:34:18 AM Senator Gaetz calls the meeting to order
10:34:20 AM Roll call
10:34:43 AM Chair Gaetz makes opening remarks and passes the gavel to Chair Bernard
10:35:13 AM Tab 2, SB 1178 by Senator Grall, Foreign Influence
10:35:19 AM Senator Grall explains the bill
10:37:34 AM Questions:
10:37:38 AM Senator Polsky
10:38:04 AM Senator Grall
10:38:42 AM Senator Polsky
10:39:21 AM Senator Grall
10:39:24 AM Senator Polsky
10:39:28 AM Senator Grall
10:39:40 AM Senator Polsky
10:39:55 AM Senator Grall
10:40:27 AM Senator Polsky
10:41:05 AM Senator Grall
10:41:31 AM Senator Polsky
10:41:51 AM Senator Grall
10:42:00 AM Senator Polsky
10:42:18 AM Senator Grall
10:42:40 AM Senator Polsky
10:43:05 AM Senator Grall
10:43:37 AM Senator Polsky
10:43:54 AM Senator Grall
10:44:38 AM Senator Polsky
10:45:36 AM Senator Grall
10:45:54 AM Senator Polsky
10:46:06 AM Senator Grall
10:46:12 AM Senator Polsky
10:46:58 AM Amendment #226318
10:47:06 AM Senator Grall explains the amendment
10:47:51 AM Senator Grall waives close on the amendment
10:47:57 AM Back on the bill as amended
10:48:13 AM Chair Bernard recognizes public testimony
10:48:15 AM Speaking:
10:48:32 AM Kelly Currie
10:55:29 AM Robert Pierce
11:01:22 AM Senator Grall makes closing remarks and waives close on the bill
11:01:49 AM Roll call
11:02:30 AM Chair Bernard passes the gavel back to Chair Gaetz
11:02:34 AM Tab 1, SB 1622 by Senator Rodriguez, Penalties for Late-filed Disclosures or Statements of Financial Interests
11:02:50 AM Senator Rodriguez explains the bill
11:03:27 AM Chair Gaetz recognizes public testimony
11:03:30 AM Speaking:
11:03:36 AM Kerrie Stillman
11:04:14 AM Senator Rodriguez waives close on the bill
11:04:16 AM Roll call
11:04:58 AM Tab 3-26, Confirmation hearings for appointments
11:05:20 AM Senator Grall moves to bloc vote appointments
11:05:34 AM Chair Gaetz recognizes public testimony
11:05:38 AM Roll call

11:06:22 AM Chair Gaetz closing remarks
11:06:29 AM Senator Avila moves to adjourn
11:06:32 AM Meeting adjourned