Session of 2025

HOUSE BILL No. 2205

By Committee on Elections

Requested by Representative Waggoner

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AN ACT concerning governmental ethics; prohibiting lobbying for or by foreign adversaries; authorizing civil lawsuits by the attorney general; providing for civil penalties for violations thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) No person shall engage in lobbying, receive or agree to receive any direct or indirect compensation or other payment in any form, including intangible or in-kind services, for carrying out any lobbying activity on behalf of another person that is a:

(1) Foreign adversary;

(2) foreign political party of a foreign adversary; or

(3) foreign adversary client.

(b) "Foreign adversary" means:

(1) 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;

(2) any agency or instrumentality of such governments;

(3) any person owned or operated, in whole or in part, by such foreign adversary, or subject to the control of such foreign adversary, and any subsidiary or parent of any such person; or

(4) any person organized under the laws of a foreign adversary or having its principal place of business in a foreign adversary country.

(c) "Foreign political party" any organization or any other combination of individuals in a country other than the United States, or any unit or branch thereof, having for an aim or purpose, or that is engaged in any activity devoted in whole or in part to, the establishment, administration, control or acquisition of administration or control, of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof, or the furtherance or influencing of the political or public interests, policies or relations of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof.

(d) "Foreign adversary client" means:

(1) A current or former official of a foreign political party of a foreign adversary;

(2) an executive or officer of a foreign adversary;

(3) an immediate family member of any such person, including such person's spouse, parents, siblings, children and spouse's parents and siblings;

(4) an official in the executive, legislative, administrative, military or judicial branch of a foreign adversary, whether elected or not; or

(5) a corporation, business or other entity that has been formed by or for the benefit of any such person.

Sec. 2. (a) The attorney general shall bring a civil action against any person violating section 1, and amendments thereto. A civil penalty may be imposed in an amount of not to exceed $25,000 for the first violation, not to exceed $100,000 for the second violation and not to exceed $150,000 for the third and each subsequent violation. All fines assessed and collected under this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund.

(b) The attorney general shall collect attorney fees and costs from the person violating this act.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.