

By Senator Grall

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to foreign influence; providing a short title; creating s. 106.031, F.S.; defining terms; requiring agents of foreign countries of concern and foreign-supported political organizations to register with the Division of Elections; providing registration requirements; requiring periodic updates by such agents and organizations; requiring foreign-supported political organizations to register with the division on a specified form created by the division within a specified timeframe; providing requirements for such forms; providing penalties; amending s. 112.313, F.S.; defining the terms "designated foreign terrorist organization" and "foreign country of concern"; prohibiting specified persons from soliciting or accepting anything of value from a designated foreign terrorist organization or a foreign country of concern; amending s. 112.3142, F.S.; requiring the Commission on Ethics to adopt certain rules by a specified date; amending s. 287.138, F.S.; 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; 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;

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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"; creating s. 692.21, F.S.; prohibiting governmental entities and certain entities with access to critical infrastructure facilities from entering into certain contracts with foreign sources of concern; requiring certain entities to register with the Department of Commerce by a specified date; requiring the department to adopt registration forms; providing requirements for such forms; providing civil and criminal penalties; requiring certain 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 source of concern from being used in critical infrastructure facilities; requiring the department to adopt rules; creating s. 775.08255, F.S.; defining terms; providing for the reclassification of criminal penalties under certain circumstances; providing a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment; creating s. 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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country of concern but who is an agent of a foreign country of concern, include:

a. The name, employer, business and residence addresses, and, if applicable, nationality of such person;

b. A detailed statement of every activity the registrant, or a person acting on behalf of the registrant, is performing, has performed, or has agreed to perform on behalf of such person; and

c. 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 the payment.

11. 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 identified in subparagraph 10.

12. A detailed statement of all payments relating to political activity made by the registrant during the previous 90 days.

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

(d) A person must register as an agent of a foreign country of concern for any period of time he or she was engaged in such position.

(3)(a) On or before January 1, 2027, each foreign-supported political organization must register with the division.

(b) The division shall create a form for the registration 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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204 s. 286.101(1).

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

208 (2) SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

209 (a) A ~~Ne~~ public officer, an employee of an agency, a local
210 government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election
211 may not ~~shall~~ solicit or accept anything of value to the
212 recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future
213 employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that
214 the vote, official action, or judgment of the public officer,
215 employee, local government attorney, or candidate would be
216 influenced thereby.

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

230 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
231 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

232 112.3142 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) ~~(c)~~ 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) - (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

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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 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(1) 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

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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 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

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

384 (b) All agreements under paragraph (a), including, but not
385 limited to, sister city agreements, are terminated as of July 1,
386 2026., which:

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

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

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

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

406 496.404 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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465 significant access to such critical infrastructure facility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

488 775.08255 Offenses by foreign agents; reclassification.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

521 775.36 Unauthorized enforcement of foreign law.—

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

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

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

529 (c) "Foreign government" has the same meaning as in s.
530 286.101(1).

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

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

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

540 (3) A person who violates this section commits a felony of
541 the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.
542 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who violates this
543 section for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering
544 the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign
545 terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or
546 designated foreign terrorist organization commits a felony of
547 the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.
548 775.083, or s. 775.084.

549 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
550 282.802, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

551 282.802 Government Technology Modernization Council.—

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(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

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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.