

Florida Targets Foreign Government Influence in Politics, Contracts, and Infrastructure

HB 905 – Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka (SB 1178 – Sen. Erin Grall)

General Bill Summary

HB 905, titled the “Foreign Interference Restriction and Enforcement Act,” establishes new safeguards aimed at limiting the influence of certain foreign governments and affiliated entities within Florida’s political system, government operations, and critical infrastructure.

The bill requires individuals acting as agents of a “foreign country of concern” and organizations receiving support from such countries to register with the Florida Division of Elections and periodically disclose activities, financial relationships, and political activities conducted in Florida. Countries of concern include China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela (Maduro regime), Syria, and Qatar.

The legislation also establishes ethics restrictions for public officials and employees, prohibiting them from soliciting or accepting gifts or anything of value from foreign countries of concern or designated foreign terrorist organizations.

In addition, the bill creates restrictions on government contracts, information technology procurement, and access to personal data involving entities linked to foreign sources of concern. Government entities must obtain affidavits verifying that vendors are not affiliated with such sources before entering certain contracts.

The bill also prohibits certain agreements or activities involving foreign countries of concern, terminates existing agreements by a specified date, and establishes criminal and civil penalties for violations.

Potential County Impact

HB 905 may have significant compliance and procurement implications for county governments.

First, counties are included within the bill’s definition of “governmental entities.” As a result, counties would be prohibited from entering into or renewing certain contracts with vendors that are owned, controlled by, or affiliated with foreign sources of concern, particularly where contracts involve:

- Information technology services, or
- Access to residents’ personal identifying information.

Before executing or renewing such contracts, counties must obtain vendor affidavits confirming the absence of foreign source connections, which may require updates to procurement policies and vendor vetting processes.

Second, the bill prohibits state agencies, political subdivisions, and entities authorized to expend state funds or levy ad valorem taxes from participating in agreements with foreign countries of concern or entities controlled by them. Existing agreements—potentially including sister-city relationships or cooperative partnerships—must be terminated if they involve those countries.

Third, county officials and employees are subject to new ethics restrictions regarding gifts or benefits from foreign countries of concern, which may require updates to ethics training and internal compliance policies.

Counties may face administrative and procurement compliance costs to review vendor relationships, modify contracting procedures, and ensure compliance with the affidavit and reporting requirements.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Certain compliance provisions also trigger on or after this date for new or renewed government contracts.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 106.031, F.S.
- s. 112.313, F.S.
- s. 112.3142, F.S.
- s. 287.138, F.S.
- s. 288.816, F.S.
- s. 288.8175, F.S.
- s. 288.860, F.S.
- s. 496.404, F.S.
- s. 692.21, F.S.
- ss. 775.08255 & 775.36, F.S.