

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 2514
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2025; April 3, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 April 22, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 22, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Hughes	X			
1-10	Paxton	X			
1-11	Bettencourt	X			
1-12	Birdwell	X			
1-13	Hall	X			
1-14	Hinojosa of Nueces	X			
1-15	Middleton	X			
1-16	Parker	X			
1-17	Perry			X	
1-18	Schwertner	X			
1-19	Zaffirini	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2514 By: Paxton

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to establishing the hostile foreign adversaries unit at
1-24 the Department of Public Safety and training, prohibitions, and
1-25 reporting requirements designed to combat foreign influence and
1-26 foreign adversary operations; creating a criminal offense.
1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-28 SECTION 1. Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by
1-29 adding Subchapter S to read as follows:
1-30 SUBCHAPTER S. HOSTILE FOREIGN ADVERSARIES UNIT
1-31 Sec. 411.551. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
1-32 (1) "Foreign adversary operation" means actions by
1-33 adversarial foreign governments that threaten the safety and
1-34 security of this state.
1-35 (2) "Unit" means the department's hostile foreign
1-36 adversaries unit established under this subchapter.
1-37 Sec. 411.552. HOSTILE FOREIGN ADVERSARIES UNIT. The
1-38 hostile foreign adversaries unit is established in the department
1-39 to support the department's duty to prevent the harassment and
1-40 coercion of this state's residents from foreign adversary
1-41 operations, strengthen state agencies against foreign adversary
1-42 operations, and protect this state's critical infrastructure
1-43 against threats foreign adversary operations pose.
1-44 Sec. 411.553. UNIT EMPLOYEES. The director may appoint
1-45 unit employees as necessary to perform unit functions.
1-46 Sec. 411.554. BIENNIAL REPORT. (a) Not later than December
1-47 1 of each even-numbered year, the unit shall submit to the governor
1-48 and the legislature a written report that assesses the threat
1-49 foreign adversary operations posed to this state, including to this
1-50 state's residents and governmental units, during the preceding two
1-51 years. The report must include:
1-52 (1) an assessment of the incidence of foreign
1-53 adversary operations conducted in this state, including operations
1-54 intended to influence political sentiment or public discourse; and
1-55 (2) strategies that have proven effective to combat
1-56 the operations described by Subdivision (1).
1-57 (b) On request by the unit, a state agency or a local law
1-58 enforcement agency shall provide to the unit information relating
1-59 to any foreign adversary operation that the agency has researched
1-60 or investigated or otherwise holds relevant information on.

2-1 Sec. 411.555. ADDITIONAL DUTIES. (a) The unit shall
 2-2 collaborate with local governments and federal agencies to operate
 2-3 the Texas Fusion Center.

2-4 (b) The unit shall refer for prosecution to the appropriate
 2-5 prosecuting attorney cases in which individuals or organizations
 2-6 have engaged in or assisted in foreign adversary operations in this
 2-7 state.

2-8 Sec. 411.556. SECURE STORAGE OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION. (a)
 2-9 The unit shall provide for the secure storage of sensitive
 2-10 information obtained or produced as part of the report developed
 2-11 under Section 411.554.

2-12 (b) Information determined as sensitive under Subsection
 2-13 (a) is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552.

2-14 Sec. 411.557. INFORMATION SHARING. With the approval of
 2-15 the director, the unit may share information determined sensitive
 2-16 under Section 411.556(a) with another federal, state, or local law
 2-17 enforcement agency. The disclosure of information under this
 2-18 section is not a voluntary disclosure under Section 552.007.

2-19 Sec. 411.558. RULES. The commission may adopt rules to
 2-20 implement this subchapter.

2-21 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 572, Government Code, is
 2-22 amended by adding Section 572.070 to read as follows:

2-23 Sec. 572.070. PROHIBITIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
 2-24 RELATED TO FOREIGN INFLUENCE; CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a) In this
 2-25 section, "foreign adversary" means a country:

2-26 (1) identified by the United States Director of
 2-27 National Intelligence as a country that poses a risk to the national
 2-28 security of the United States in at least one of the three most
 2-29 recent Annual Threat Assessments of the U.S. Intelligence Community
 2-30 issued pursuant to Section 108B, National Security Act of 1947 (50
 2-31 U.S.C. Section 3043b); or

2-32 (2) designated by the governor after consultation with
 2-33 the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety.

2-34 (b) An employee or volunteer of a state agency or a
 2-35 political subdivision of this state may not:

2-36 (1) accept transportation to or lodging in a country
 2-37 that is a foreign adversary and that is paid for by the foreign
 2-38 adversary because of the employee's or volunteer's position with
 2-39 the state or political subdivision; or

2-40 (2) accept a gift or item of value from a person
 2-41 representing a foreign adversary for any purpose, including to pay
 2-42 for travel expenses or as reimbursement for the costs of attending a
 2-43 conference or other event in a country that is a foreign adversary
 2-44 or that is hosted on behalf of a foreign adversary or a principal of
 2-45 a foreign adversary.

2-46 (c) An employee or volunteer of a state agency or a
 2-47 political subdivision of this state shall report to the commission,
 2-48 in the form and manner the commission requires, each interaction,
 2-49 communication, or meeting the employee or volunteer has with a
 2-50 person acting on behalf of a foreign adversary not later than the
 2-51 30th day after the date of the interaction, communication, or
 2-52 meeting. The commission shall make available a report under this
 2-53 subsection to the attorney general and the Texas Department of
 2-54 Public Safety on request.

2-55 (d) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly
 2-56 violates this section. An offense under this subsection is a state
 2-57 jail felony.

2-58 SECTION 3. Section 2054.519, Government Code, is amended by
 2-59 adding Subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

2-60 (f) In addition to the requirements for certification under
 2-61 Subsection (b), a cybersecurity training program must include
 2-62 education on:

2-63 (1) the threat of foreign adversaries and other
 2-64 hostile foreign actors, including the United Front Work Department
 2-65 of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and other
 2-66 coordinated foreign influence operations;

2-67 (2) known efforts by foreign adversaries to target and
 2-68 influence subnational governments, including efforts made by the
 2-69 United Front Work Department;

