STATE OF NEW YORK

1774

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2025

Introduced by Sen. WALCZYK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to prohibited contributions by hostile foreign nations in connection with a state or local election

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 14-100 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 18 to read as follows:

18. "hostile foreign nation" means the nation of Russia, China, Iran, or North Korea, any governmental entity of any such nation or subdivision thereof, or any party, organization, group, or other entity with operational ties to any such nation.

§ 2. The election law is amended by adding a new section 14-116-a to read as follows:

§ 14-116-a. Prohibited contributions by hostile foreign nations. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, it shall be unlawful for a hostile foreign nation, directly or indirectly, to make a contribution or donation of money or other thing of value, or to make an express or implied promise to make a contribution or donation, in connection with a state or local election.

2. It shall be unlawful for a hostile foreign nation, directly or indirectly, to make a contribution or donation to a constituted committee, independent expenditure committee, political committee, or party committee.

3. It shall be unlawful for a hostile foreign nation, directly or indirectly, to make an expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement for a political communication.

4. It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly solicit, accept, or receive a contribution or donation described in subdivision one, two or three of this section from a hostile foreign nation.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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5. It shall be unlawful for a person who receives a contribution or donation from a hostile foreign nation to use such contribution or donation, directly or indirectly, for any of the purposes described in subdivision one, two, or three of this section, or to contribute, donate, transfer, or convey funds from such a contribution or donation to another person for use for any of the purposes described in subdivision one, two, or three of this section.

6. Any person found in violation of this section shall be guilty of a class A felony and shall be subject to a civil penalty equal to the contribution or donation amount plus a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, to be recoverable in a special proceeding or civil action to be brought by the state board of elections chief enforcement counsel.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.