

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1181
Version:	CS
Request Number:	
Author:	Speaker McCall
Date:	2/22/2024
Impact:	Minimal

Research Analysis

The committee substitute for HB 1181 creates the Research, Education, and Government Operations Protection Act of 2024 and requires state agencies, political subdivisions, and educational institutions to disclose gifts and contracts from foreign sources, particularly those from countries of concern, to the Attorney General. The measure establishes procedures for reporting and approval of such gifts and contracts, including disclosure of certain information, maintenance of public web portals, and penalties for non-compliance.

Schools are prohibited from having any cultural exchange agreement with a country of concern that constrains the freedom of the contract, influences the school's curriculum, or promotes an agenda detrimental to state or national safety. The content of any agreement must be additionally shared with federal agencies and the State Regents for Education or the State Department of Education for approval.

The measure also requires higher education institutions to screen applicants having affiliations with countries of concern for research positions, oversee international travel, obtain approval for certain academic partnerships, and prohibit unauthorized access or use of trade secrets. Higher education institutions must prioritize foreign researchers and joint research projects from allied nations in a specified order.

The Governor must also appoint a person to oversee the Report on Foreign Influence in Higher Education who will submit such report to the Governor and legislature. The report will investigate all attempted foreign influence operations in higher education and be available to the public semiannually.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

HB 1181 in its current form creates the Research, Education, and Government Operations Protection Act of 2024. The limitations and duties required by the measure are anticipated to be absorbed by effected agencies through existing resources, resulting in minimal impact if any.

Prepared By: John McPhetridge, House Fiscal Director

Other Considerations

None.

