1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Florida Retirement System; 3 creating s. 121.141, F.S.; providing definitions; 4 requiring the State Board of Administration to 5 identify any Iran-restricted companies, Sudan-6 restricted companies, and companies that boycott 7 Israel; providing duties of the state board; 8 authorizing the Florida Retirement System to cease 9 divesting from companies under certain conditions; 10 exempting the state board from certain conflicting obligations under general law; providing legislative 11 12 intent; providing an effective date. 13 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 15 16 Section 1. Section 121.999, Florida Statutes, is created 17 to read: 121.141 Prohibited transactions; companies that boycott 18 19 Israel, Iran-restricted companies, and Sudan-restricted 20 companies.-21 (1) As used in this section, the term: 2.2 "Boycott Israel" means engaging in actions that are 23 politically motivated and intended to penalize, inflict economic 24 harm on, or otherwise limit commercial relations with the State 25 of Israel, companies based in the State of Israel, or 26 territories controlled by the State of Israel.

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(b) "Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations, that exist for the purpose of making profit.

- (c) "Direct holdings" all publicly traded securities of a company that are held directly by the Florida Retirement System in an actively managed account or fund in which the system owns all shares or interests.
- (d) "Indirect holdings" in a company means all securities of that company that are held in an account or fund, such as a mutual fund, managed by one or more persons not employed by the Florida Retirement System, in which the system owns shares or interests together with other investors not subject to section or that are held in an index fund.
- (e) "Iran-restricted company" means a company having business operations that involve contracts with or the provision of supplies or services to the Government of Iran, companies in which the Government of Iran have any direct or indirect equity share, consortia or projects commissioned by the Government of Iran, or companies involved in consortia or projects commissioned by the Government of Iran and:
- 1. More than 10 percent of the company's revenues produced in, or assets located in, Iran involve oil-related activities or

mineral-extraction activities; less than 75 percent of the company's revenues produced in or assets located in Iran involve contracts with or the provision of oil-related or mineral-extraction products or services to the Government of Iran or a project or consortium created exclusively by that government; and the company has failed to adopt, publicize, and implement a formal plan to cease its business operations within 1 year and to refrain from any such new business operations; or

- 2. The company has, on or after July 1, 2016, made an investment of \$20 million or more, or any combination of investments of at least \$10 million each that in the aggregate equals or exceeds \$20 million in any 12-month period, which directly or significantly contributes to the enhancement of Iran's ability to develop the petroleum resources of Iran.
- (e) "Private market fund" means any private equity fund, private equity fund of funds, venture capital fund, hedge fund, hedge fund of funds, real estate fund, or other investment vehicle that is not publicly traded.
- (f) "Restricted companies" means companies that boycott Israel, Iran-restricted companies, and Sudan-restricted companies.
- (g) "Sudan-restricted company" means a company that maintains, sells, or leases equipment, facilities, personnel, or any other apparatus of business or commerce in the Republic of the Sudan, and includes the ownership or possession of real or personal property located in the Republic of the Sudan.

(2) (a) Effective April 1, 2017, the State board of

Administration shall identify any Iran-restricted companies,

Sudan-restricted companies, and companies that boycott Israel.

In order to identify such companies, the board may:

- 1. Review and rely on publicly available information regarding Iran-restricted companies, Sudan-restricted companies, and companies that boycott Israel, including information provided by nonprofit organizations, research firms, and government entities.
- 2. Contact asset managers contracted by the Florida

 Retirement System that invests in Iran-restricted companies,

 Sudan-restricted companies, and companies that boycott Israel.
- 3. Contact other institutional investors that have divested from or engaged with Iran-restricted companies, Sudan-restricted companies, and companies that boycott Israel.
- 4. Retain an independent research firm to identify Iranrestricted companies, Sudan-restricted companies, and companies that boycott Israel.
- (b) The state board shall review the list of restricted companies on a quarterly basis based on evolving information.
- (3) For companies included on the state board's list of restricted companies:
- (a) For each newly identified company, the state board shall provide written notice to inform the company of its status and that it may be subject to divestment by the Florida Retirement System.

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(b) If a company ceases activity that designates the company to be an Iran-restricted company, a Sudan-restricted company, or a company that boycotts Israel, the company shall be removed from the list of restricted companies and this section shall cease to apply to it unless it resumes such activities.

(4) The state board shall:

- (a) Identify those companies on the list of restricted companies in which the Florida Retirement System owns direct or indirect holdings.
- (b) Instruct its investment advisors to sell, redeem, divest, or withdraw all direct holdings of restricted companies from the Florida Retirement System's assets under management in an orderly and fiduciary responsible manner within 12 months after the company's most recent appearance on the list of restricted companies.
 - (c) Not acquire securities of restricted companies.

This subsection does not apply to indirect holdings or private market funds. The state board shall submit letters to the managers of those investment funds containing restricted companies requesting that they consider removing the companies from the fund or create a similar actively managed fund having indirect holdings devoid of the companies. If the manager creates a similar fund, the Florida Retirement System shall replace all applicable investments with investments in the similar fund in an expedited timeframe consistent with prudent

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investing standards.

- (5) The Florida Retirement System may cease divesting from companies pursuant to subsection (4) if clear and convincing evidence shows that the value of investments in such companies becomes equal to or less than 0.5 percent of the market value of all assets under management by the Florida Retirement System.

 For any cessation of divestment, the Florida Retirement System shall provide a written notice to the state board in advance of the cessation of divestment, setting forth the reasons and justification, supported by clear and convincing evidence, for its decision to cease divestment under subsection (4).
- (6) Any costs associated with the activities of the state board under this section shall be borne by the state board.
- (7) With respect to actions taken in compliance with this section, including all good-faith determinations regarding companies as required by this section, the state board is exempt from any conflicting obligations under general law, including any fiduciary duties under this chapter and any obligations with respect to choice of asset managers, investment funds, or investments for the Florida Retirement System's securities portfolios.
- (8) It is not the intent of the Legislature to cause divestiture from any company based in the United States. The state board shall consider this intent when developing or reviewing the list of restricted companies.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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