1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to charitable organizations; amending
3	s. 496.404, F.S.; defining the terms "foreign country
4	of concern" and "foreign source of concern"; amending
5	s. 496.415, F.S.; prohibiting the solicitation or
6	acceptance of contributions or anything of value from
7	a foreign source of concern; creating s. 496.431,
8	F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture and
9	Consumer Services to create an Honest Services
10	Registry for a specified purpose; providing
11	requirements for charitable organizations to be
12	included on the registry; requiring the department to
13	publish the registry on its website; requiring the
14	department to adopt rules; amending s. 741.0305, F.S.;
15	conforming a cross-reference; reenacting ss. 496.416
16	and 496.417, F.S., relating to violations as deceptive
17	or unfair trade practices and criminal penalties,
18	respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s.
19	496.415, F.S., in references thereto; providing an
20	effective date.
21	
22	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
23	
24	Section 1. Subsections (13) through (27) of section
25	496.404, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (15)
	Page 1 of 6

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

26	through (29), respectively, and new subsections (13) and (14)
27	are added to that section, to read:
28	496.404 DefinitionsAs used in ss. 496.401-496.424, the
29	term:
30	(13) "Foreign country of concern" means the People's
31	Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic
32	of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic
33	of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, or the Syrian
34	Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under
35	significant control of such foreign country of concern.
36	(14) "Foreign source of concern" means any of the
37	following:
38	(a) The government or any official of the government of a
39	foreign country of concern;
40	(b) A political party or member of a political party or
41	any subdivision of a political party in a foreign country of
42	concern;
43	(c) A partnership, an association, a corporation, an
44	organization, or other combination of persons organized under
45	the laws of or having its principal place of business in a
46	foreign country of concern, or a subsidiary of such entity;
47	(d) Any person who is domiciled in a foreign country of
48	concern and is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the
49	United States;
50	(e) An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a
	Page 2 of 6

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

2024

51	foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source of
52	concern; or
53	(f) An entity in which any person, entity, or collection
54	of persons or entities described in paragraphs (a) through (e)
55	has a controlling interest. As used in this paragraph, the term
56	"controlling interest" means the possession of the power to
57	direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of
58	an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract,
59	or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly
60	has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interests
61	of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its
62	profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest.
63	Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 496.415,
64	Florida Statutes, to read:
65	496.415 Prohibited acts.—It is unlawful for any person in
66	connection with the planning, conduct, or execution of any
67	solicitation or charitable or sponsor sales promotion to:
68	(20) Solicit or accept contributions or anything of value,
69	including contributions or any other assistance, from a foreign
70	source of concern.
71	Section 3. Section 496.431, Florida Statutes, is created
72	to read:
73	496.431 Honest Services Registry
74	(1) The department shall create an Honest Services
75	Registry to provide the residents of this state with the
	Page 3 of 6
	Faye Suit

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

76	information necessary to make an informed choice when deciding
77	which charitable organizations to support.
78	(2) To be included on the Honest Services Registry, a
79	charitable organization must, at a minimum, submit to the
80	department an attestation, verified as provided in s. 92.525, of
81	the following:
82	(a) The organization does not solicit or accept, directly
83	or indirectly, funding, support, or services from a foreign
84	source of concern.
85	(b) The organization's messaging and content is not
86	directly or indirectly produced or influenced by a foreign
87	source of concern.
88	(3) The department shall publish the Honest Services
89	Registry on the department's website.
90	(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
91	section.
92	Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
93	741.0305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
94	741.0305 Marriage fee reduction for completion of
95	premarital preparation course
96	(3)(a) All individuals electing to participate in a
97	premarital preparation course shall choose from the following
98	list of qualified instructors:
99	1. A psychologist licensed under chapter 490.
100	2. A clinical social worker licensed under chapter 491.
	Page 4 of 6

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

103

101 3. A marriage and family therapist licensed under chapter102 491.

4. A mental health counselor licensed under chapter 491.

104 5. An official representative of a religious institution 105 which is recognized under <u>s. 496.404</u> s. 496.404(23), if the 106 representative has relevant training.

107 6. Any other provider designated by a judicial circuit,
108 including, but not limited to, school counselors who are
109 certified to offer such courses. Each judicial circuit may
110 establish a roster of area course providers, including those who
111 offer the course on a sliding fee scale or for free.

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 496.415, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 496.416, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

116 496.416 Violation as deceptive or unfair trade practice.117 Any person who commits an act or practice that violates any
118 provision of ss. 496.401-496.424 commits an unfair or deceptive
119 act or practice or unfair method of competition in violation of
120 chapter 501, part II, and is subject to the penalties and
121 remedies provided for such violation.

Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 496.415, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 496.417, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

Page 5 of 6

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2024

2024

126	496.417 Criminal penaltiesExcept as otherwise provided
127	in ss. 496.401-496.424, and in addition to any administrative or
128	civil penalties, any person who willfully and knowingly violates
129	ss. 496.401-496.424 commits a felony of the third degree,
130	punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
131	For a second or subsequent conviction, such violation
132	constitutes a felony of the second degree, punishable as
133	provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
134	Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Page 6 of 6

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.