

# Legislative Analysis



## PUBLIC SCHOOL AGREEMENTS OR GRANTS WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN

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**House Bill 4238 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Nancy Jenkins-Arno**  
**Committee: Government Operations**  
**Complete to 3-19-25**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 4238 would amend the Revised School Code to prohibit a public school from participating in an agreement with, or accepting a *grant* from, a *foreign country of concern* if the agreement or grant does any of the following:

- Constrains the public school's freedom to contract.
- Allows the curriculum or values of a public school in Michigan to be directed or controlled by the foreign country of concern.
- Promotes an agenda that is detrimental to the safety and security of the United States or its residents.

*Grant* would mean a transfer of money for a specified purpose and would include a conditional gift.

*Foreign country of concern* would mean China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, or Venezuela or an agency or other entity under significant control of any of those countries.

In addition, before a public school executes a cultural exchange agreement with a foreign country of concern, the substance of the agreement would have to be shared with a federal agency concerned with protecting national security or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other restrictions under federal law. If the federal agency determines that the agreement promotes an agenda that is detrimental to the safety and security of the United States or its residents, the public school could not enter into the agreement.

Finally, the bill would prohibit a public school from accepting anything of value that is conditioned on its participation in a program or other endeavor that promotes the language or culture of a foreign country of concern.

Proposed MCL 180.1346

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no impact on the state and could create costs for local school districts, public school academies (PSAs), and intermediate school districts (ISDs) that participate in agreements (including cultural exchange agreements) with, or accept a grant from, a country the bill defines as a foreign country of concern.

A public school that intends to enter into a cultural exchange agreement with a foreign country of concern would incur administrative costs to submit the agreement to a federal agency before executing the agreement. These costs would likely be absorbed using existing staff time.

It is not known how many, if any, public schools currently accept anything of value from a foreign country of concern that would violate the requirements of the bill.

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