

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

March 18, 2021

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB21-177 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:

2       **"SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the  
3 "Preventing Foreign Influence Act".

4       **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

6       (a) Colorado has a voting system that is considered by many  
7 across the nation to be the gold standard of state election systems. While  
8 Colorado welcomes immigrants, visitors, and investors from across the  
9 world, its elections should be decided by Colorado residents and not by  
10 foreign-influenced corporations.

11       (b) The United States government has concluded that the 2016  
12 general election was subject to extensive foreign involvement as detailed  
13 in a January 2017 report prepared by the director of national intelligence  
14 entitled "Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S.  
15 Elections".

16       (c) Congress has recognized the need to protect United States  
17 elections, including local elections, from foreign influence through the  
18 ban in federal election law on contributions and expenditures by foreign  
19 nationals, which was upheld by the supreme court in *Bluman v. Federal  
20 Election Commission*, 565 U.S. 1104 (2012).

21       (d) Political spending by foreign-influenced corporations may  
22 weaken, interfere with, or disrupt Colorado's system of democratic  
23 self-government and the faith that the electorate has in its elections and



\* S B 1 7 7    S    S A . 0 0 1 \*

1 its elected officials.

2 (e) To protect the integrity of Colorado's self-government, it is  
3 necessary to prevent foreign-influenced corporations from influencing  
4 Colorado elections by requiring for-profit corporations to certify that they  
5 are not a foreign-influenced corporation before making permissible  
6 contributions or donations and to prevent any independent expenditure  
7 committees from knowingly accepting donations from foreign-influenced  
8 corporations.".

9 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

10 Page 6, line 10, strike "NONPROFIT" and substitute "FOR-PROFIT."

\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

