

HB 897 -- FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE

SPONSOR: Baker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Commerce by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill prohibits the governing body of a political subdivision from procuring, authorizing, or approving a development agreement, building plan, or other proposal relating to the development of the political subdivision with a foreign adversary, as defined in the bill.

The bill prohibits certain foreign governments or entities from purchasing, holding, or acquiring title to real property in this State if the government or entity is listed as a foreign adversary, is headquartered within a foreign adversary, is directly or indirectly held or controlled by a foreign adversary, or if the majority of stock or other ownership interests are held or controlled by citizens of a foreign adversary.

Certain exceptions to these provisions are described in the bill.

This bill is the same as SB 211 (2025) and SB 893 (2024).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there should be restrictions on investing in real estate by foreign adversaries around military installations. The determination of who is a foreign adversary is under federal law.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Baker; State Armor Action; State Shield; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.