

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (COUNTERMEASURES) BILL

Foreign interference are attempts by foreign state actors to manipulate domestic politics through covert and deceptive means to undermine political sovereignty and national security.

The Bill will target foreign interference conducted through Hostile Information Campaigns and Local Proxies. This ensures that Singaporeans retain the freedom to decide how we should govern our country and live our lives.



COUNTERING HOSTILE INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS (HICs)

The Bill will allow the government to take targeted action to investigate potential foreign interference and counter hostile communications activity.

WHAT ARE HICs?

HICs involve the use of sophisticated online tools and tactics in a coordinated manner to advance one country's interest, such as influencing domestic political discourse, inciting social discord, and undermining political sovereignty. Examples include:



- Creating and using inauthentic accounts to mislead users about their identity and credibility.



- Using bots on social media platforms or advertisements to artificially boost the reach of certain messages and engineer an artificial sense of strong public support for a certain position or sentiment.



- Inciting other users into "trolling", harassing, or intimidating a particular target.



- Creating accounts or pages and cultivating a public following by posting on benign topics, before pushing out political messages at critical periods.

SAFEGUARDING THOSE WHO TAKE PART IN OUR DOMESTIC POLITICS

- The Bill will define Politically Significant Persons (PSPs) and introduce restrictions on potential threat vectors of influence, such as donations, volunteers, leadership and membership, and affiliations.
- The aim is to ensure that actors who are intimately involved in our political process and are vulnerable to being compromised are free from foreign interference.

WHO ARE PSPs?

- PSPs cover individuals and non-individuals, including (a) **Political parties**, (b) **Political office holders**, (c) **Members of Parliament, NCMP and Nominated MP**, (d) **Leader of the House**, (e) **Leader of the Opposition** and (f) **Election candidates, and their election agents**
- The Bill will also allow the Competent Authority (appointed by the Minister for Home Affairs) to designate other individuals and non-individuals that may be susceptible to foreign political interference as PSPs.
- The Competent Authority may also impose a suite of countermeasures and controls on PSPs if there is a heightened threat of foreign interference to mitigate against this threat.

