

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3835

To prohibit the use of funds for the production of films by United States companies that alter content for screening in the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2020

Mr. CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds for the production of films by United States companies that alter content for screening in the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stopping Censorship,
5 Restoring Integrity, and Protecting Talkies Act” or the
6 “SCRIPT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR PRODUCTION**
2 **OF FILMS AND PROHIBITION ON USE OF**
3 **SUCH FUNDS FOR FILMS SUBJECT TO CONDI-**
4 **TIONS ON CONTENT OR ALTERED FOR**
5 **SCREENING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF**
6 **CHINA OR THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.**

7 (a) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—The President
8 may only authorize the provision of technical support or
9 access to an asset controlled by the Federal Government
10 for, or authorize the head of a Federal agency to enter
11 into a contract relating to, the production or funding of
12 a film by a United States company if the United States
13 company, as a condition of receiving the support or ac-
14 cess—

15 (1) provides to the Secretary a list of all films
16 produced or funded by the United States company
17 the content of which has been submitted, during the
18 shorter of the preceding 10-year period or the period
19 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
20 to an official of the Government of the People's Re-
21 public of China or the Chinese Communist Party for
22 evaluation with respect to screening the film in the
23 People's Republic of China, including, for each
24 film—

25 (A) the title of the film; and

1 (B) the date on which the submittal oc-
2 curred;

3 (2) enters into a written agreement with the
4 President, or the Federal agency providing the sup-
5 port or access, not to alter the content of the film
6 in response to, or in anticipation of, a request by an
7 official of the Government of the People's Republic
8 of China or the Chinese Communist Party; and

9 (3) submits such agreement to the Secretary.

10 (b) PROHIBITION WITH RESPECT TO FILMS SUB-
11 JECT TO CONDITIONS ON CONTENT OR ALTERED FOR
12 SCREENING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—
13 Notwithstanding subsection (a), the President may not au-
14 thorize the provision of technical support or access to any
15 asset controlled by the Federal Government for, or author-
16 ize the head of a Federal agency to enter into any contract
17 relating to, the production or funding of a film by a United
18 States company if—

19 (1) the film is co-produced by an entity located
20 in the People's Republic of China that is subject to
21 conditions on content imposed by an official of the
22 Government of the People's Republic of China or the
23 Chinese Communist Party; or

24 (2) with respect to the most recent report sub-
25 mitted under subsection (c), the United States com-

1 pany is listed in the report under subparagraph (C)
2 or (D) of paragraph (2) of that subsection.

3 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
6 nually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
7 appropriate committees of Congress a report on
8 films disclosed under subsection (a) that are associ-
9 ated with a United States company that has received
10 technical support or access to an asset controlled by
11 the Federal Government for, or has entered into a
12 contract with the Federal Government relating to,
13 the production or funding of a film.

14 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
15 graph (1) shall include the following:

16 (A) A description of each film listed pursu-
17 ant to the requirement under subsection (a)(1)
18 the content of which was submitted, during the
19 shorter of the preceding 10-year period or the
20 period beginning on the date of the enactment
21 of this Act, by a United States company to an
22 official of the Government of the People's Re-
23 public of China or the Chinese Communist
24 Party for evaluation with respect to screening

1 the film in the People’s Republic of China, in-
2 cluding—

3 (i) the United States company that
4 submitted the contents of the film;

5 (ii) the title of the film; and

6 (iii) the date on which the submittal
7 occurred.

8 (B) A description of each film with respect
9 to which a United States company entered into
10 a written agreement with the President or the
11 Federal agency providing the support or access,
12 as applicable, pursuant to the requirement
13 under subsection (a)(2) not to alter the content
14 of the film in response to, or in anticipation of,
15 a request by an official of the Government of
16 the People’s Republic of China or the Chinese
17 Communist Party, during the shorter of the
18 preceding 10-year period or the period begin-
19 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act,
20 including—

21 (i) the United States company that
22 entered into the agreement; and

23 (ii) the title of the film.

24 (C) The title of any film described under
25 subparagraph (A), and the corresponding

1 United States company described in clause (i)
2 of that subparagraph—

3 (i) that was submitted to an official of
4 the Government of the People’s Republic of
5 China or the Chinese Communist Party
6 during the preceding 3-year period; and

7 (ii) for which the Secretary assesses
8 that the content was altered in response to,
9 or in anticipation of, a request by an offi-
10 cial of the Government of the People’s Re-
11 public of China or the Chinese Communist
12 Party.

13 (D) The title of any film that is described
14 in both subparagraph (A) and subparagraph
15 (B), and the corresponding one or more United
16 States companies described in clause (i) of each
17 such subparagraph—

18 (i) that was submitted to an official of
19 the Government of the People’s Republic of
20 China or the Chinese Communist Party
21 during the preceding 10-year period; and

22 (ii) for which the Secretary assesses
23 that the content was altered in response to,
24 or in anticipation of, a request by an offi-
25 cial of the Government of the People’s Re-

1 public of China or the Chinese Communist
2 Party.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
5 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
6 gress” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Armed Services, the
8 Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Com-
9 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
10 tation of the Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Armed Services, the
12 Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Com-
13 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House
14 of Representatives.

15 (2) CONTENT.—The term “content” means any
16 description of a film, including the script.

17 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Commerce.

19 (4) UNITED STATES COMPANY.—The term
20 “United States company” means a private entity in-
21 corporated in the United States.

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