

Calendar No. 246

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3466

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 10, 2022

Mr. CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

JANUARY 18, 2022

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for the production of programs by United States companies that alter political 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. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
7 the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
9 the House of Representatives.

10 (2) **CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.**—The
11 term “Chinese Government official” means an offi-
12 cial of the Government of the People’s Republic of
13 China or of the Chinese Communist Party.

14 (3) **DESCRIPTION.**—The term “description”
15 means any description of the elements of a program,
16 including the screenplay or script.

17 (4) **POLITICAL CONTENT.**—The term “political
18 content” means content that is considered sensitive
19 by the Chinese Communist Party or by the Govern-
20 ment of the People’s Republic of China for political
21 reasons, including issues related to—

22 (A) human rights, freedom of expression,
23 Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, and the Tiananmen
24 Square massacre;

1 (B) the repression of Uyghurs, the Falun
2 Gong, and other religious and spiritual minori-
3 ties; and

4 (C) the ongoing genocide of the Uyghurs,
5 including through methods of gender-based vio-
6 lence, such as forced abortions, involuntary
7 sterilization, and the involuntary implantation
8 of contraceptives.

9 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” has the
10 meaning given the term “motion pictures” in section
11 101 of title 17, United States Code, including works
12 developed for or broadcast, rebroadcast, or otherwise
13 transmitted via—

14 (A) a television station licensed by the
15 Federal Communications Commission;

16 (B) a cable system or satellite carrier;

17 (C) a cable or satellite carrier service; or

18 (D) an on-demand video streaming service.

19 (6) REPORTING PERIOD.—The term “reporting
20 period” means the shorter of—

21 (A) the immediately preceding 10-year pe-
22 riod; or

23 (B) the period elapsed since the date of the
24 enactment of this Act.

1 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of State.

3 (8) UNITED STATES COMPANY.—The term
4 “United States company” means a private entity in-
5 corporated in the United States.

6 **SEC. 3. CONDITION FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR PRO-**
7 **GRAMS AND PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL SUP-**
8 **PORT FOR PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CONDI-**
9 **TIONS ON CONTENT OR ALTERED FOR**
10 **SCREENING IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF**
11 **CHINA.**

12 (a) CONDITION FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT.—The
13 President may only authorize the provision of technical
14 support or access to an asset controlled by the Federal
15 Government for, or authorize the head of a Federal agency
16 to enter into a contract relating to, the production or fund-
17 ing of a program by a United States company if the
18 United States company, as a condition of receiving the
19 support or access—

20 (1) provides to the Secretary a list of all pro-
21 grams produced or funded by the United States
22 company, the description of which has been sub-
23 mitted, during the reporting period, to a Chinese
24 Government official for evaluation with respect to

1 disseminating the program in the People’s Republic
2 of China, including, for each program—

3 (A) the title of the program; and

4 (B) the date on which the submission oc-
5 curred; and

6 (2) enters into a written agreement with the
7 Secretary committing not to—

8 (A) alter the political content of the pro-
9 gram in response to, or in anticipation of, a re-
10 quest by a Chinese Government official; or

11 (B) co-produce the program with an entity
12 located in the People’s Republic of China that
13 is subject to conditions on political content im-
14 posed by a Chinese Government official.

15 (b) PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL SUPPORT RELATING
16 TO PROGRAMS, THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF WHICH WAS
17 ALTERED FOR DISSEMINATION IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUB-
18 LIC OF CHINA.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the
19 President may not authorize the provision of technical
20 support or access to any asset controlled by the Federal
21 Government for, or authorize the head of a Federal agency
22 to enter into any contract relating to, the production or
23 funding of a program by a United States company if, with
24 respect to the most recent report submitted pursuant to

1 section 4, the United States company is included on the
2 list described in section 4(b)(3).

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS REGARDING PROGRAMS BY**
4 **UNITED STATES COMPANIES THAT ALTER**
5 **CONTENT FOR SCREENING IN THE PEOPLE'S**
6 **REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
9 the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
10 gressional committees regarding the programs disclosed
11 pursuant to section 3.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to
13 subsection (a) shall include—

14 (1) a description of each program disclosed pur-
15 suant to section 3(a)(1), including—

16 (A) the name of the United States com-
17 pany that produced the program;

18 (B) the title of such program; and

19 (C) the date on which such submission oc-
20 curred;

21 (2) a description of each program subject to a
22 written agreement required under section 3(a)(2),
23 including—

24 (A) the United States company that en-
25 tered into such agreement;

1 (B) the title of such program; and

2 (C) whether the Secretary determines that
3 the political content was altered in response to,
4 or in anticipation of, a request by a Chinese
5 Government official; and

6 (3) a list of United States companies that the
7 Secretary determines—

8 (A) altered the political content of a pro-
9 gram referred to in paragraphs (1) or (2); or

10 (B) co-produced a program referred to in
11 paragraph (2) with an entity located in the Peo-
12 ple's Republic of China that is subject to condi-
13 tions on content imposed by a Chinese Govern-
14 ment official.

Calendar No. 246

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3466

A BILL

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

JANUARY 18, 2022

Read the second time and placed on the calendar