Calendar No. 246

117TH CONGRESS
2D 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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

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SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) Appropriate congressional committees.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

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

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


(3) Description.—The term “description” means any description of the elements of a program, including the screenplay or script.

(4) Political content.—The term “political content” means content that is considered sensitive by the Chinese Communist Party or by the Government of the People’s Republic of China for political reasons, including issues related to—

(A) human rights, freedom of expression, Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, and the Tiananmen Square massacre;
(B) the repression of Uyghurs, the Falun Gong, and other religious and spiritual minorities; and

(C) the ongoing genocide of the Uyghurs, including through methods of gender-based violence, such as forced abortions, involuntary sterilization, and the involuntary implantation of contraceptives.

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

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

(B) a cable system or satellite carrier;

(C) a cable or satellite carrier service; or

(D) an on-demand video streaming service.

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

(A) the immediately preceding 10-year period; or

(B) the period elapsed since the date of the enactment of this Act.
(7) **Secretary.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

(8) **United States company.**—The term “United States company” means a private entity incorporated in the United States.

**SEC. 3. CONDITION FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS AND PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS ON CONTENT OR ALTERED FOR SCREENING IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.**

(a) **Condition for Federal Support.**—The President may only authorize the provision of technical support or access to an asset controlled by the Federal Government for, or authorize the head of a Federal agency to enter into a contract relating to, the production or funding of a program by a United States company if the United States company, as a condition of receiving the support or access—

(1) provides to the Secretary a list of all programs produced or funded by the United States company, the description of which has been submitted, during the reporting period, to a Chinese Government official for evaluation with respect to
disseminating the program in the People’s Republic of China, including, for each program—

(A) the title of the program; and

(B) the date on which the submission occurred; and

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

(A) alter the political content of the program in response to, or in anticipation of, a request by a Chinese Government official; or

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

(b) Prohibition of Federal Support Relating to Programs, the Political Content of Which Was Altered for Dissemination in the People’s Republic of China.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the President may not authorize the provision of technical support or access to any asset controlled by the Federal Government for, or authorize the head of a Federal agency to enter into any contract relating to, the production or funding of a program by a United States company if, with respect to the most recent report submitted pursuant to
section 4, the United States company is included on the
list described in section 4(b)(3).

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

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

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

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

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

(B) the title of such program; and

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

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

(A) the United States company that en-
tered into such agreement;
(B) the title of such program; and

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

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

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

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