

S 1838

Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jun 13, 2019

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 116-76.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 116-76. (Nov 27, 2019)

Law: 116-76 (Enacted Nov 27, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1838>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]

Party: Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (56 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO]	R · MO		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 13, 2019
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Jun 18, 2019
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Jul 25, 2019
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Sep 9, 2019
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 9, 2019
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Sep 9, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 9, 2019
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Sep 11, 2019
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 11, 2019
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Sep 12, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 16, 2019
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Sep 16, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 17, 2019
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Sep 17, 2019
Sen. Romney, Mitt [R-UT]	R · UT		Sep 24, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 24, 2019
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Oct 15, 2019
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Oct 15, 2019
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Oct 15, 2019
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Oct 16, 2019
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Oct 16, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 16, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 21, 2019
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Oct 21, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 21, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 22, 2019
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Oct 22, 2019
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Oct 23, 2019
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Oct 23, 2019
Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Oct 31, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 5, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 12, 2019
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Nov 13, 2019
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Nov 14, 2019
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Nov 14, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Sasse, Ben [R-NE]	R · NE		Nov 14, 2019
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]	R · KY		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Nov 19, 2019
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Nov 19, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 19, 2019
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 19, 2019
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Nov 20, 2019
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Nov 20, 2019
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Nov 20, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 26, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3289	Identical bill	Oct 16, 2019: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 243.

Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019

This bill directs various departments to assess whether political developments in Hong Kong justify changing Hong Kong's unique treatment under U.S. law. (Hong Kong is part of China but has a largely separate legal and economic system.)

The Department of State shall report and certify annually to Congress as to whether Hong Kong is sufficiently autonomous from China to justify its unique treatment. The report shall address issues including (1) demands for universal suffrage; (2) law enforcement cooperation, including extradition requests; (3) sanctions enforcement and export controls; (4) decision-making within the Hong Kong government; (5) judicial independence; (6) civil liberties in Hong Kong, including freedom of assembly and freedom of the press; and (7) how any erosion to Hong Kong's autonomy impacts areas of U.S.-Hong Kong cooperation.

The Department of Commerce shall report annually to Congress on China's efforts to use Hong Kong to evade U.S. export controls and sanctions and the extent of such violations occurring in Hong Kong generally. The report shall also (1) identify any items that were improperly reexported from Hong Kong, (2) assess whether dual-use items subject to U.S. export laws are being transshipped through Hong Kong, and (3) assess whether such dual-use items are being used to develop various mass-surveillance and predictive-policing tools or the social-credit system proposed for deployment in China.

If the President determines that Hong Kong has proposed or enacted legislation that puts U.S. citizens at risk of extradition to mainland China or to another country that lacks defendants' rights protections, the President shall report to Congress on (1) a strategy for protecting U.S. citizens and businesses in Hong Kong, and (2) whether Hong Kong is legally competent to administer various law-enforcement agreements between Hong Kong and the United States.

The State Department may not deny work- or student-visa applications from an otherwise qualified Hong Kong resident due to a politically motivated adverse action by the Hong Kong government against the applicant. The State Department shall encourage other democratic countries to take a similar approach.

The President shall report to Congress a list of individuals responsible for committing acts that violate internationally recognized human rights in Hong Kong, including the extrajudicial rendition or torture of any person in Hong Kong. The bill bars such individuals from entering the United States and imposes sanctions on them.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 27, 2019:** Signed by President.
- **Nov 27, 2019:** Became Public Law No: 116-76.
- **Nov 21, 2019:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Received in the House.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Held at the desk.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Mr. Engel moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9089-9096)
- **Nov 20, 2019:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 1838.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H9100)
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 417 - 1 (Roll no. 635).(text: CR H9089-9092)
- **Nov 20, 2019:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 417 - 1 (Roll no. 635). (text: CR H9089-9092)
- **Nov 20, 2019:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 19, 2019:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S6654-6660)
- **Nov 19, 2019:** The committee amendment withdrawn by Unanimous Consent. (CR S6657)
- **Nov 19, 2019:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S6657-6660)
- **Nov 19, 2019:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S6657-6660)
- **Sep 26, 2019:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Risch with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Sep 26, 2019:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 238.
- **Sep 25, 2019:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Jun 13, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 13, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.