

HR 7440

Hong Kong Autonomy Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jul 1, 2020

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 116-149.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 116-149. (Jul 14, 2020)

Law: 116-149 (Enacted Jul 14, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7440>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]	R · KY		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Curtis, John R. [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Reschenthaler, Guy [R-PA-14]	R · PA		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jul 1, 2020
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Jul 1, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Discharged From	Jul 1, 2020
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Discharged From	Jul 1, 2020
Judiciary Committee	House	Discharged From	Jul 1, 2020
Rules Committee	House	Discharged From	Jul 1, 2020
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 14, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4049	Related bill	Aug 7, 2020: Held at the desk.
116 S 3798	Related bill	Jun 29, 2020: Held at the desk.
116 HR 7083	Related bill	Jun 1, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Summary (as of Jul 14, 2020)

Hong Kong Autonomy Act

This bill imposes sanctions on foreign individuals and entities that materially contribute to China's failure to preserve Hong Kong's autonomy.

Hong Kong is part of China but has a largely separate legal and economic system with protections for civil rights such as freedom of speech. This arrangement is enshrined in (1) the Joint Declaration, a 1984 treaty pertaining to the United Kingdom's transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty to China; and (2) the Basic Law, Hong Kong's constitutional document.

The Department of State shall report annually to Congress information about (1) foreign individuals and entities that materially contributed to China's failure to comply with the Joint Declaration or the Basic Law; and (2) foreign financial institutions that knowingly conducted a significant transaction with such identified individuals and entities. An individual, entity, or financial institution may be excluded from this report for various reasons, such as to protect an intelligence source.

The President shall impose property-blocking sanctions on an individual or entity named in a report, and visa-blocking sanctions on a named individual. The President shall impose various sanctions on a financial institution named in a report, such as prohibiting the institution from receiving loans from a U.S. financial institution.

The President may waive or terminate the imposition of sanctions under this bill. Congress may override such a waiver or termination by passing a joint resolution of disapproval.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 14, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Jul 14, 2020:** Signed by President.
- **Jul 14, 2020:** Became Public Law No: 116-149.
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S4180)
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S4180)
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Committee on the Judiciary discharged.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Committee on Financial Services discharged.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Committee on Ways and Means discharged.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Committee on Rules discharged.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Mr. Sherman asked unanimous consent to discharge from committee and consider.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Considered by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR H3039-3044; text: CR H3039-3044)
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed without objection.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** On passage Passed without objection.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 1, 2020:** Received in the Senate, read twice.