

HR 461

Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jan 25, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Mar 5, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/461>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Curtis, John R. [R-UT-3]

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

Cosponsors (27 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Gallagher, Mike [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Kinzinger, Adam [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Schweikert, David [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Stanton, Greg [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Jan 25, 2021
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Mar 1, 2021
Rep. Owens, Burgess [R-UT-4]	R · UT		Mar 1, 2021
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Mar 17, 2021
Rep. Porter, Katie [D-CA-45]	D · CA		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Apr 21, 2021
Rep. Kim, Young [R-CA-39]	R · CA		Jun 22, 2021
Rep. Allred, Colin Z. [D-TX-32]	D · TX		Jun 28, 2021
Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R. [R-OH-2]	R · OH		Aug 31, 2021
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Oct 15, 2021
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Nov 1, 2021
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Nov 15, 2021
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Nov 23, 2021
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]	D · MI		Dec 23, 2021
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Jul 7, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 25, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 5, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 295	Related bill	Feb 8, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Hong Kong Safe Harbor Act

This bill designates certain Hong Kong residents with priority status for refugee consideration and contains other related provisions.

An individual and certain family members shall have such priority status if the individual (1) is a Hong Kong resident who suffered persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution as a result of peaceful political activity; or (2) has been formally charged, detained, or convicted for certain peaceful actions. An individual receiving refugee status under this bill shall not be counted against various numerical limitations.

When determining whether an individual shall be admitted as a refugee under this bill, an individual whose citizenship, nationality, or residency was revoked for submitting a nonfrivolous application for a U.S. immigration benefit shall be considered to have suffered persecution on account of political opinion.

The general presumption that an alien is seeking immigrant status shall not apply to certain Hong Kong residents seeking asylum into the United States. (Typically, an alien seeking admission as a nonimmigrant must establish that the alien does not intend to immigrate to the United States.) This exception to the presumption shall apply to certain individuals involved in the 2019 and 2020 protests against China's encroachment into Hong Kong's autonomy (Hong Kong is a part of China but has a separate legal and economic system).

An individual from Hong Kong may not be denied admission into the United States if the primary reason for the denial is a politically motivated government action against the individual's involvement in protests.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 5, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Jan 25, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 25, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.