

## S 5253

### Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) Certification Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Dec 14, 2022

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Dec 14, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5253>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 14, 2022

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 9561	Identical bill	<b>Dec 14, 2022:</b> Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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.

## **Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) Certification Act**

This bill requires the President to periodically determine whether to allow the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (HKETOs) to continue to operate in the United States. (The HKETOs are the official representative offices for Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous city that was established as a British colony in 1841. The United Kingdom transferred sovereignty over Hong Kong to China in 1997).

Under this bill, the President must periodically (at least once a year) certify to Congress a determination as to whether the HKETOs should be covered by the International Organizations Immunities Act. (The act provides immunities and privileges to certain international organizations, such as immunity from certain lawsuits and exemption from property taxes.)

If the President certifies that the HKETOs no longer merit receiving such privileges and immunities, the HKETOs must terminate operations in the United States no later than 180 days after the certification is delivered to Congress.

If the President certifies that the HKETOs continue to merit such privileges and immunities, the HKETOs may continue operations for another year, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving of the certification.

The President may also revoke the application of such privileges and immunities to the HKETOs.

A federal government entity may enter into an agreement or partnership with an HKETO only if the HKETOs are still authorized to operate in the United States under this bill.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 14, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.