

S 860

Safeguarding Internet Freedom in Hong Kong Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Mar 18, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Mar 18, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/860>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 18, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 23, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Dec 16, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 18, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Safeguarding Internet Freedom in Hong Kong Act of 2021

This bill authorizes and establishes programs to promote internet freedom in Hong Kong and contains other related provisions.

The Department of State may establish an interagency working group to develop a strategy to bolster internet resiliency and access in Hong Kong. The State Department shall also establish within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor a Hong Kong internet freedom program. (The bureau has existing programs to promote internet freedom globally through technology development, digital safety, policy advocacy, and research.)

The Open Technology Fund may establish a Hong Kong internet freedom program. (The fund, an independent nonprofit organization that receives U.S. government funding, was originally a part of Radio Free Asia.)

The bureau and the fund may award grants to qualifying private organizations to promote technology and tools in Hong Kong that promote online information access, enhance digital security, and circumvent internet blocking and other online censorship.

The State Department shall report to Congress a classified strategy to (1) increase the availability of firewall circumvention technology in Hong Kong; and (2) support the preservation of an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet in Hong Kong.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 18, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 18, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.