

HR 1103

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) Certification Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Feb 17, 2023

Current Status: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Cale

Latest Action: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Calendar No. 527. (Sep 25, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1103>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Feb 17, 2023
Rep. Hinson, Ashley [R-IA-2]	R · IA		May 17, 2023
Rep. Gallagher, Mike [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Nov 13, 2023
Rep. Wexton, Jennifer [D-VA-10]	D · VA		Nov 13, 2023
Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]	D · OR		Nov 28, 2023
Rep. Pelosi, Nancy [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Nov 29, 2023
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Mar 5, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Nov 29, 2023
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 17, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 490	Identical bill	Jul 25, 2023: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 148.

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

- **Sep 25, 2024:** Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 527.
- **Sep 10, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5119)
- **Sep 10, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413 - 3 (Roll no. 405).
- **Sep 10, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413 - 3 (Roll no. 405).
- **Sep 10, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Mr. Barr moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5068-5071)
- **Sep 9, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1103.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** 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. (text: CR H5068-5069)
- **Nov 29, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **Nov 29, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 39 - 0.
- **Feb 17, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 17, 2023:** 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.