

S 490

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) Certification Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Feb 16, 2023

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 148.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 148. (Jul 25, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/490>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 10, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 25, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1103	Identical bill	Sep 25, 2024: Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 527.

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

- **Jul 25, 2023:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Menendez with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Jul 25, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 148.
- **Jul 13, 2023:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Feb 16, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 16, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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