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Defending Defense Research from Chinese Communist Party Espionage Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 5, 2025

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Feb 5, 2025)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/418

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Banks, Jim [R-IN]

Party: Republican • State: IN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Sep 11, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 5, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Defending Defense Research from Chinese Communist Party Espionage Act of 2025

This bill generally prohibits contracts between certain foreign entities and institutions of higher education that are conducting research funded by the Department of Defense (DOD), and it imposes a post-employment restriction on principal investigators of certain DOD-funded research projects.

Beginning on January 1, 2027, the bill generally prohibits institutions of higher education that conduct DOD-funded research from entering into contracts with North Korea, China, Russia, or Iran or a foreign entity of concern (e.g., an academic institution of China that meets certain criteria). DOD is prohibited from providing funds to such institutions unless the institution receives a waiver.

Institutions seeking to contract with the listed countries or entities, and those with existing contracts, must submit waiver requests to DOD. Waivers are valid for one year. Institutions with contracts that are longer than one year may apply to renew the waiver for an additional one-year period.

The bill also generally imposes a post-employment restriction on individuals who serve as principal investigators of certain defense research projects, unless DOD waives the restriction. Specifically, for the 10 years following their employment as a principal investigator, an individual may not seek or accept employment or conduct any activity for which a foreign entity of concern provides compensation. This applies to principal investigators of projects that are (1) operated by an institution of higher education; (2) funded by DOD; and (3) involve a critical or emerging technology, as determined by DOD.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 5, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
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