

Public Law 117–336
117th Congress

An Act

To authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons that have engaged in significant theft of trade secrets of United States persons, and for other purposes.

Jan. 5, 2023
[S. 1294]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting American Intellectual Property Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THEFT OF TRADE SECRETS OF UNITED STATES PERSONS.

Protecting
American
Intellectual
Property Act
of 2022.
President.
50 USC 1701
note.
50 USC 1709.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(A) identifying any foreign person the President determines, during the period specified in paragraph (2)—

Determination.

(i) has knowingly engaged in, or benefitted from, significant theft of trade secrets of United States persons, if the theft of such trade secrets occurred on or after such date of enactment and is reasonably likely to result in, or has materially contributed to, a significant threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economic health or financial stability of the United States;

(ii) has provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of or to benefit significantly from, such theft;

(iii) is an entity that is owned or controlled by, or that has acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any foreign person identified under clause (i) or (ii); or

(iv) is a chief executive officer or member of the board of directors of any foreign entity identified under clause (i) or (ii);

(B) describing the nature, objective, and outcome of the theft of trade secrets each foreign person described in subparagraph (A)(i) engaged in or benefitted from; and

(C) assessing whether any chief executive officer or member of the board of directors described in clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) engaged in, or benefitted from, activity described in clause (i) or (ii) of that subparagraph.

Assessment.

(2) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this paragraph is—

(A) in the case of the first report required by paragraph (1), the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the report is required to be submitted; and

(B) in the case of each subsequent report required by paragraph (1), the one-year period preceding the date on which the report is required to be submitted.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(b) AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS.—

(1) SANCTIONS APPLICABLE TO ENTITIES.—In the case of a foreign entity identified under subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1) in the most recent report submitted under that subsection, the President shall impose 5 or more of the following:

(A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President may, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the entity if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) INCLUSION ON ENTITY LIST.—The President may include the entity on the entity list maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations, for activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

(C) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ASSISTANCE FOR EXPORTS TO SANCTIONED PERSONS.—The President may direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States not to give approval to the issuance of any guarantee, insurance, extension of credit, or participation in the extension of credit in connection with the export of any goods or services to the entity.

Time period.

(D) LOANS FROM UNITED STATES FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The President may prohibit any United States financial institution from making loans or providing credits to the entity totaling more than \$10,000,000 in any 12-month period unless the person is engaged in activities to relieve human suffering and the loans or credits are provided for such activities.

(E) LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The President may direct the United States executive director to each international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States to oppose any loan from the international financial institution that would benefit the entity.

(F) PROHIBITIONS ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The following prohibitions may be imposed against the entity if the entity is a financial institution:

(i) PROHIBITION ON DESIGNATION AS PRIMARY DEALER.—Neither the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System nor the Federal Reserve Bank of New York may designate, or permit the continuation of any prior designation of, the financial institution as a primary dealer in United States Government debt instruments.

(ii) PROHIBITION ON SERVICE AS A REPOSITORY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS.—The financial institution may not serve as agent of the United States Government or serve as repository for United States Government funds.

The imposition of either sanction under clause (i) or (ii) shall be treated as one sanction for purposes of this paragraph, and the imposition of both such sanctions shall be treated as 2 sanctions for purposes of this paragraph.

(G) PROCUREMENT SANCTION.—The United States Government may not procure, or enter into any contract for the procurement of, any goods or services from the entity.

(H) FOREIGN EXCHANGE.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange that are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and in which the entity has any interest.

(I) BANKING TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the entity.

(J) BAN ON INVESTMENT IN EQUITY OR DEBT OF SANCTIONED PERSON.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations or guidelines as the President may prescribe, prohibit any United States person from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of equity or debt instruments of the entity.

(K) EXCLUSION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS.—The President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States, any alien that the President determines is a corporate officer or principal of, or a shareholder with a controlling interest in, the entity.

Determination.

(L) SANCTIONS ON PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—The President may impose on the principal executive officer or officers of the entity, or on individuals performing similar functions and with similar authorities as such officer or officers, any of the sanctions under this paragraph.

(2) SANCTIONS APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an alien identified under subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1) in the most recent report submitted under that subsection, the following shall apply:

(A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the

alien if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1) is subject to revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(II) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall—

(aa) take effect pursuant to section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)); and

(bb) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(c) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States; and

(2) not more than 15 days after issuing the waiver, submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(e) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to any authorized law enforcement activities of the United States.

Determination.

Deadline.
Notification.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other international obligations.

(4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority or a requirement to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(3) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization.

(4) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—The term “Export Administration Regulations” has the meaning given that term in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801).

(5) FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term “foreign entity” means an entity that is not a United States person.

(6) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means any person that is not a United States person.

(7) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(8) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(9) TRADE SECRET.—The term “trade secret” has the meaning given that term in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code.

(10) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

Approved January 5, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1294:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 168 (2022):

Dec. 20, considered and passed Senate.

Dec. 22, considered and passed House.