

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2397

To amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to authorize further actions to promote freedom of information and democracy in North Korea, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2017

Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to authorize further actions to promote freedom of information and democracy in North Korea, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Distribution and Pro-
5 motion of Rights and Knowledge Act of 2017” or the
6 “DPRK Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**
2 **AND DEMOCRACY IN NORTH KOREA.**

3 The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a) of section 103 (22 U.S.C.
6 7813)—

7 (A) by striking “radio broadcasting” and
8 inserting “broadcasting, including news re-
9 broadcasting,”; and

10 (B) by striking “increase broadcasts” and
11 inserting “increase such broadcasts, including
12 news rebroadcasts,”; and

13 (2) in subsection (a) of section 104 (22 U.S.C.
14 7814)—

15 (A) by striking “The President” and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

18 (B) by inserting “, USB drives, micro SD
19 cards, audio players, video players, cell phones,
20 wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wire-
21 less telecommunications, and other electronic
22 media that shares information” before the pe-
23 riod at the end; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraphs:

1 “(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the
2 sense of Congress described in section 103, the
3 President, acting through the Secretary of State, is
4 authorized to distribute or provide grants to dis-
5 tribute information receiving devices, electronically
6 readable devices, and other informational sources
7 into North Korea, including devices and informa-
8 tional sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry
9 out this paragraph, the President is authorized to
10 issue directions to facilitate the free-flow of informa-
11 tion into North Korea.

12 “(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT
13 PROGRAM.—In accordance with the authorization de-
14 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the
15 availability and distribution of sources of informa-
16 tion inside North Korea, the President, acting
17 through the Secretary of State, is authorized to es-
18 tablish a grant program to make grants to eligible
19 entities to develop or distribute (or both) new prod-
20 ucts or methods to allow North Koreans easier ac-
21 cess to outside information. Such program may in-
22 volve public-private partnerships.

23 “(4) CULTURE.—In accordance with the sense
24 of Congress described in section 103, the Broad-
25 casting Board of Governors may broadcast Amer-

1 ican, Korean, Chinese, and other popular music, tel-
2 evision, movies, and popular cultural references as
3 part of its programming.

4 “(5) RIGHTS AND LAWS.—In accordance with
5 the sense of Congress described in section 103, the
6 Broadcasting Board of Governors shall broadcast to
7 North Korea in the Korean language information on
8 rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the
9 North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declara-
10 tion of Human Rights, the United Nations Commis-
11 sion of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic
12 People’s Republic of Korea, and any other applicable
13 treaties or international agreements to which North
14 Korea is bound.

15 “(6) BROADCASTING REPORT.—Not later
16 than—

17 “(A) 180 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State,
19 in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of
20 Governors, shall submit to the appropriate con-
21 gressional committees a report that sets forth a
22 detailed plan for improving broadcasting con-
23 tent for the purpose of targeting new audiences
24 and increasing listenership; and

1 “(B) one year after the date of the enact-
2 ment of this paragraph and annually thereafter
3 for each of the next five years, the Secretary of
4 State, in consultation with the Broadcasting
5 Board of Governors, shall submit to the appro-
6 priate congressional committees a report on the
7 effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this
8 section, including data reflecting audience and
9 listenership, device distribution and usage, tech-
10 nological development and advancement usage,
11 and other appropriate information to fully in-
12 form Congress.”.

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