

US Senate's move to ban is the latest reprisal against TikTok

Article

The news: The **US Senate** passed legislation last week to ban **ByteDance's** popular **TikTok** app from US government devices. It's the latest and most concrete pushback against the app, per [Insider](#).

A Senate united: The Senate unanimously voted to approve the **No TikTok on Government Devices Act**, a bill authored by **Sen. Josh Hawley**.

- The bill still has to pass in the House and be signed by **President Biden** before it becomes law.
- House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** supports the [inclusion of language banning TikTok](#) on government devices in the omnibus spending bill she hopes to pass by the end of next week.
- The proposed ban forbids the installation and use of the short-form video app on government devices, including smartphones, tablets, and PCs.
- A TikTok spokesperson said in a statement that the proposal “does nothing to advance US national security interests.”
- TikTok has over a billion users worldwide and has been under scrutiny for its parent company **ByteDance**’s ties to the Chinese government.

Intensifying pushback: At least **seven US states**, the **US military**, the **State Department**, the **Department of Homeland Security**, and the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** have [banned the app](#).

- TikTok and the US government have been negotiating a deal to allow the app to serve US users but [concerns that the app is leaking user data](#) to the Chinese government persist.
- TikTok uses an American company, **Oracle**, to manage user data and traffic in the country **but maintains various backups overseas, including in China**.

Banning beyond government: Continued reprisal against TikTok from US government agencies and local governments could expand into the public sector, with businesses, schools, and other organizations banning the app to safeguard user data.

- It’s going to be increasingly difficult for **ByteDance** to erase any suspicion of espionage, especially as it [negotiates a deal](#) with the US government.
- **A partnership with or acquisition of TikTok by a US company or conglomerate could ease tensions and remove the bans**, but [earlier attempts for an acquisition](#) reveal it to be a problematic undertaking.

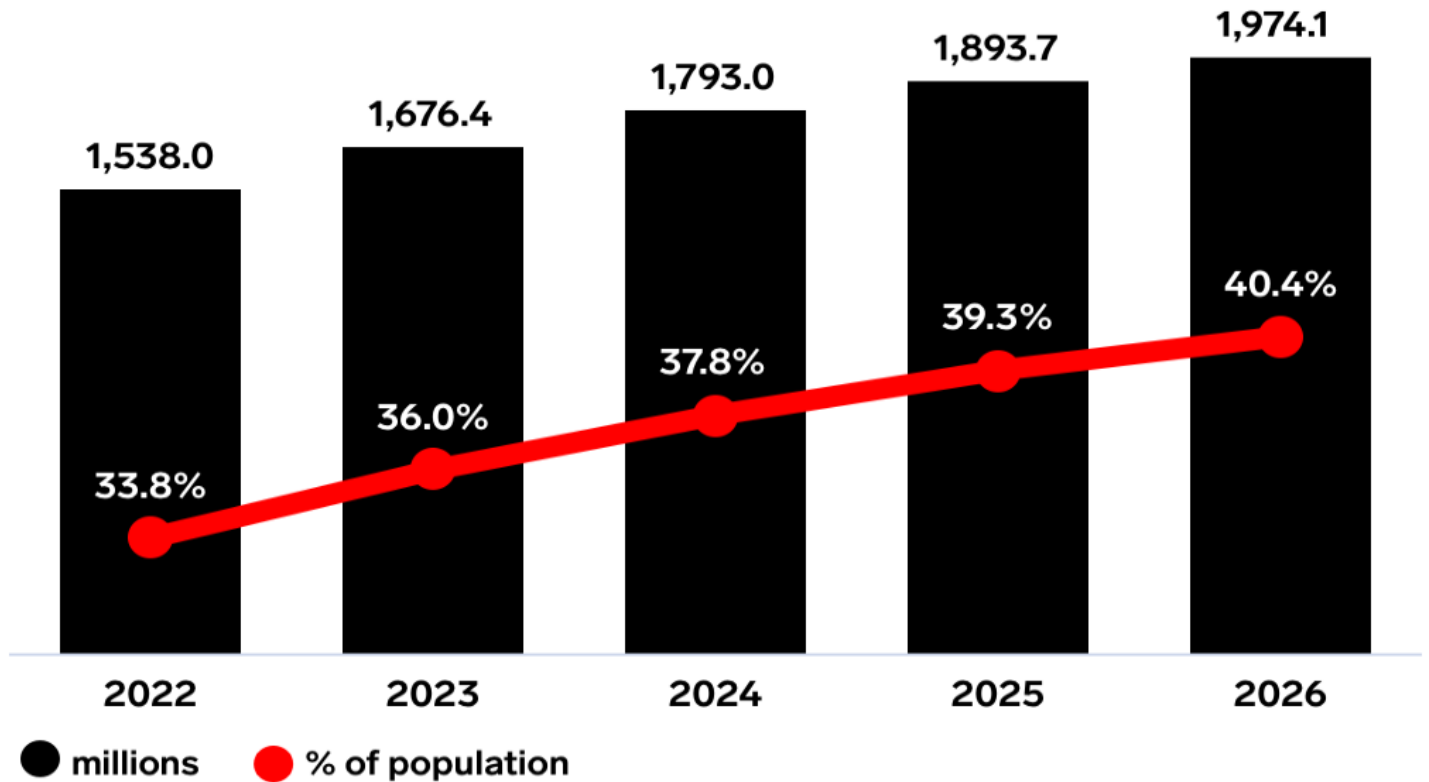
The problem: A permanent US TikTok ban, while unlikely, would **benefit Meta, Instagram, YouTube, Snap, and other social media outlets** that have already [co-opted some of TikTok’s most popular features](#).

While TikTok’s future in the US is uncertain, the popular app may be too big to ban successfully, especially since various small businesses have thrived using the app to promote

their products and services.

TikTok/Douyin Users

Worldwide, 2022-2026



Note: internet users who access their TikTok or Douyin account via any device at least once per month

Source: eMarketer, April 2022

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