

The House approves the proposal to ban TikTok and goes to the Senate. President Biden says he'll sign it. The reasons are widely reported but TikTok users have some questions about what happens if? I'm answering to some FAQ questions.

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0-8 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv

### **ON-CAMERA TEASE:**

ABOUT THIS PROPOSED TIKTOK BAN... A LOT OF TIKTOK USERS HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT 'WHAT IF'. I'M JAMEY TUCKER COMING UP WITH SOME ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TIKTOK FANS SAY HAVEN'T BEEN ANSWERED.

### **ANCHOR INTRO**

THE PROPOSED BAN OF TIKTOK IS MOVING RAPIDLY THROUGH CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN SAYS, HE'LL SIGN THE BILL TO BAN THE APP IF IT MAKES IT TO HIS DESK.

MANY LAWMAKERS ARE CONCERNED THAT DATA IS BEING SHARED WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. BUT TIKTOK USERS HAVE A LOT OF 'WHAT IF QUESTIONS'. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER HEARS THOSE QUESTIONS AND PROVIDES SOME ANSWERS.

### **PACKAGE SCRIPT**

TikTok users know why lawmakers want to ban the app, but TikTok users who say they're on this app more than any other a lot of questions that haven't been answered.

"Can the government ban an app or any apps?"

It's never happened in the United States and "ban" may not be the best description. President Biden and Congress can demand that Apple and Google remove the TikTok app from their app stores if it can be proved the app poses a national security threat. And, if it happens, other apps based in China could be banned from being distributed too under the same law.

That includes WeChat, CapCut, Temu, and Ali Express if they don't fully divest themselves of Chinese companies.

"Will the app delete off the phone?"

That's probably the most asked question. The app won't disappear from phones that already have it downloaded. However, over time as Apple and Google release new the app will stop working.

"Why is it going to happen this time? Like why didn't it happen last time?"

Former President Donald Trump tried to ban TikTok with executive orders but was overturned by a judge for freedom of speech issues. This proposed ban is from Congress and President Biden and a law is harder to overturn than an executive order. A federal judge will have to deem the law unconstitutional.

There will also be ways for Americans to use TikTok without the app by using the website TikTok.com and a VPN to hide their location and show they're in Canada or another country where TikTok is allowed. Stay tuned. That's What the Tech? Im Jamey Tucker

## **ANCHOR TAG**

INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, TIKTOK IS BANNED IN CHINA. IT CURRENTLY HAS AN ESTIMATED 150 MILLION USERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

## **WEB STORY**

TikTok users are closely following Congress this week after lawmakers in the House of Representatives passed a bill that would stop app distribution in the United States. The word "ban" is thrown around quite a bit but the better explanation is that Apple and Google would be forced to remove the app from the app stores.

National security concerns about user data being shared with China is how the bill is being framed. ByteDance, the Chinese company would be forced to sell TikTok to a U.S.-based company or see the popular app removed.

The bill has moved over to the Senate and President Biden says he will sign the bill into law if it makes it to his desk.

While most TikTok users know about the how and the why, they still have questions they say haven't been answered.

I spent some time with TikTok users to find out which questions they need answered.

### **Can the Government Really Ban TikTok?**

This is a new one for the US. While a complete ban isn't guaranteed, President Biden and Congress could force Apple and Google to remove TikTok from their app stores if they can prove it's a security risk. This could also apply to other Chinese apps like WeChat, CapCut, Temu, and Ali Express.

### **What Happens to My TikTok App?**

Don't panic and smash your phone just yet! If the ban goes through, the app won't magically disappear from your phone. The bigger issue is that it won't work with future updates from Apple and Google, eventually rendering it unusable.

Why Now? What Happened Last Time?

Remember the whole TikTok drama under Trump? He tried to ban it with an executive order, but courts blocked it due to free speech concerns. This time, Congress is involved, and laws are tougher to overturn than executive orders. However, a judge could still strike it down if deemed unconstitutional.

Are There Workarounds?

Tech-savvy users might be tempted to use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to access TikTok through a website like TikTok.com. This would mask your location and make it seem like you're in a country where TikTok is allowed. But be careful, VPNs can be tricky and have their own security risks.

The Bottom Line

The future of TikTok in the US is uncertain and if it is signed into law there will likely be legal challenges that could push it all the way to the Supreme Court. So, stay tuned.