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TikTok users face ban unless app's parent company sells

BY GILLIAN BRASSIL AND ANDREW SHEELER
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WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden signed into law a potential ban on TikTok as part of a long-awaited

foreign aid package on Wednesday.

California influencers and users might have less than a year left to promote businesses, seek advice and spread awareness of key topics on the popular social media app used by millions of Americans. In Cali-

fornia, about 890,000 businesses and 16 million people actively use TikTok, according to data from the platform.

The measure, which the Senate passed as part of a \$95 billion foreign assistance legislation on Tuesday night, could block TikTok nationwide if its

China-based parent company ByteDance doesn't sell its U.S. operations in nine months.

The president can extend the timeframe for ByteDance to divest from nine months to a year if he determines a deal is in the works, making 2025 the earliest a ban could come into

effect.

TikTok said that it would challenge the crackdown in court after Biden signed it into law.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers have said TikTok, under the control of its China-based parent company, poses a risk to national security. Many legislators have expressed concern that Chinese officials could ask the app for data on the 170 million Americans who use it as well as push disinformation to them.

Many senators had been skep-

SEE TIKTOK, 6A



PAUL KITAGAKI JR. pkitagaki@sacbee.com

Cal Poly Humboldt student Tabs Born paints a Palestine flag on Tuesday outside barricaded Siemens Hall, which students and community members occupied to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Allstate vows more home policies if state risk rules change

BY STEPHEN HOBBS
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Gerald Zimmerman, a government relations representative at Allstate, shared a bold claim during a public hearing Tuesday: If the Department of Insurance approves a series of rule changes, the company would end its pause on issuing new homeowner policies in California. And it would immediately start writing coverage again "in nearly every corner" of the state.

That statement came during a public hearing on one of those changes, which would allow insurance companies to estimate future risks when asking the department to increase prices.

Under the plan, companies will be allowed to use computer programs to predict losses from wildfires. Currently, insurers must anticipate catastrophic events by looking at the past 20 years. California is the only state that requires them to do so.

Company representatives have long argued that the state's restriction is obsolete because it does not allow them to properly plan for future threats to homes due to climate change. And they have claimed it contributes to the decision of many insurers to limit or restrict new business in the state.

As a result, many homeowners are faced with prices that are rapidly increasing, and few alternatives other than the state-created insurer of last resort.

Zimmerman was one more than 30 speakers during the almost three-hour meeting hosted by the department to gather feedback on the draft rules.

Although he was eager to push the rules forward, many others were not. Some worried that the computer programs could overestimate risks, causing policyholders to pay more. Others expressed concerns the proposed changes would further delay how long it takes the state to approve rate increases.

Allison Adey, a lobbyist for the Personal Insurance Federation of California, said the draft rules create an onerous review process that could delay how quickly the computer programs could be used. They allow, for example, a department official to compel evidence and testimony.

Adey warned that without a specific timeline to evaluate the programs companies want to

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Student Gaza war protesters shut down Cal Poly Humboldt

BY JENAVIEVE HATCH
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ARCATA

After a violent clash with campus and local police Monday night, students at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt have taken over a campus administration building and barricaded themselves inside, demanding that

the university sever ties with Israel and any companies that support "the Zionist entity."

Cal Poly Humboldt joins several college campuses across the U.S., including Columbia University in New York City, University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Southern California to occupy campus spaces in support of Palestine.

But so far, Humboldt is the



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Students and community members perform a traditional Palestinian dance called dabke in support of pro-Palestinian protesters barricaded inside Siemens Hall at Cal Poly Humboldt on Tuesday.

only college where students have occupied a campus building. The university halted all campus operations on Monday

amid the protests, calling the demonstration a "dangerous

SEE PROTESTERS, 5A

Biden signs \$95B aid bill for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan

BY ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden signed a \$95.3 billion package of aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan on

Wednesday, reaffirming U.S. support for Ukraine in the fight against Russia's military assault after months of congressional gridlock put the centerpiece of the White House's foreign policy in jeopardy.

"It's a good day for world

peace," Biden said from the State Dining Room of the White House. "It's going to make America safer, it's going to make the world safer and it continues America's leadership in the world and everyone knows it."

The Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve the package Tuesday night, a sign of bipartisan support after increasingly divisive politics raised questions on Capitol Hill and among U.S. allies over whether the United States would continue to back Ukraine. The 79-18 vote provided Biden another legislative accomplishment to point to, even in the face of an obstructionist House.

SEE BILL, 6A



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