



On September 17, the Parliament's website published the results of the public consultation on draft legislation under Section 77 of the Constitution. It revealed that Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul did not sign off on four draft bills that the Speaker of the House of Representatives deemed to be financial bills under Section 134 of the Constitution. As a result, these bills, including the Creative Culture Promotion Act (THACCA Act), could not proceed to the House of Representatives' consideration process.

Here are the names of the four bills that were rejected.

The four draft bills that the Prime Minister did not endorse include:

1. Draft Act on the Plan and Procedures for Decentralization to Local Administrative Organizations (No. ...) B.E. proposed by Petcharat Maichomphu, MP for Chiang Mai, People's Party, and colleagues.
2. Draft Gambling Act (Amendment No. ...) B.E. proposed by Nonth Paisanlimcharoenkit, MP for Nonthaburi, People's Party, and colleagues.
3. Draft of the Labour Protection Act (Amendment No. ...) B.E. proposed by Sia Champathong, Member of Parliament (List System), People's Party, and colleagues.
4. Draft of the Creative Culture Promotion Act B.E. proposed by Jiraporn Sindhuphai, MP for Roi Et, Pheu Thai Party, and colleagues.

Revisiting the THACCA Act: A mechanism for driving soft power.

The draft Creative Culture Promotion Act, or THACCA Act, originated from a meeting of the National Soft Power Strategy Committee in October 2023. This committee was chaired by then-Prime Minister Settha Thavisin, with then-Pheu Thai Party leader Paetongtarn Shinawatra as vice-chairman. The meeting highlighted the need for a national strategy to foster collaboration between the public and private sectors in systematically developing soft power.

The Creative Economy Agency (CEA) was commissioned to study and draft this legislation, in collaboration with economics and legal experts, to ensure the law is comprehensive and addresses all relevant aspects.

The essence of the draft THACCA Act aims to create a sustainable mechanism to support soft power, divided into several key parts, including:

1. The establishment of the 'Creative Culture Promotion Office' is responsible for overseeing and driving the creative culture industry, such as organizing festivals, developing e-games, and supporting performing arts.
2. Developing strategic and action plans that emphasize integration across all sectors, particularly supporting the competitiveness of cultural-related products and services in the global market.
3. The establishment of the "Creative Culture Promotion Fund" will serve as a key funding source for cultural development projects and support entrepreneurs in related industries.

In addition, the draft law also covers 11 creative cultural industries, including:

1. The festival promotes events that are unique and reflect Thai culture.
2. Tourism: Developing cultural tourism to attract tourists from around the world.
3. Sports and competitions support sports and esports activities related to culture.
4. Electronic gaming and esports create a space for game development and international competition.
5. The fashion, jewelry, and cosmetics industries are elevating Thai fashion and handicraft products to a global level.
6. Architectural, product, and graphic design promote designs that reflect the creativity of Thai people.
7. Music: Supporting the production and dissemination of unique Thai music.
8. Films, animations, and television dramas are driving Thai entertainment media into the international market.
9. Arts and performing arts develop art that reflects the identity of Thai culture.
10. Books, literature, and comics support literary works and printed media that promote creativity.
11. Food and beverages are being elevated to become a significant soft power asset for the nation.

Furthermore, the draft law allows for the addition of more creative cultural industry categories in the future as appropriate, through the consideration of the relevant committee. The aim is to promote the production of high-value goods and services, such as food and beverages using domestic ingredients, handicrafts reflecting Thai culture, and music with the potential for international markets. This also includes upskilling and reskilling training for personnel in the industry to enhance their competitiveness.

The former chairman of the film subcommittee's perspective on the current government.

Most recently, today (September 18th), M.R. Chalermchatri Yukol, a film and series director and former chairman of the subcommittee for promoting the film industry at THACCA, posted a message on his personal Facebook page stating that "The Prime Minister has rejected the draft THACCA Act." He also commented, "As we can see, this government is unlikely to support the creative economy management in the same way as the previous government. We'll have to look at other perspectives."

Reference: https://www.parliament.go.th/section77/survey_more_news.php?type=closewsubypm (https://www.parliament.go.th/section77/survey_more_news.php?type=closewsubypm).