

China says US tariff break a ‘small step’ to fixing mistake

BLOOMBERG NEWS

China’s government said the U.S. decision to exempt certain consumer electronics from its so-called reciprocal tariffs is a small step toward rectifying its wrongdoings and urged Washington to do more to revoke the levies.

President Donald Trump’s administration excluded smartphones, computers and other electronics from the increased import duties on Friday, narrowing the scope of his tariffs of 125% on goods from China and a baseline 10% on imports from most other countries.

“This is a small step by the U.S. toward correcting its wrongful action of unilateral ‘reciprocal tariffs’”, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement posted on its official WeChat account on Sunday. The ministry went on to urge the U.S. to “take a big stride in completely abolishing the wrongful action, and return to the correct path of resolving differences through equal dialog based on mutual respect.”

Trump’s latest exemptions cover almost \$390 billion in U.S. imports

based on official U.S. 2024 trade statistics, including more than \$101 billion from China, according to data compiled by Gerard DiPippo, associate director of the Rand China Research Center.

Trump on Saturday declined to elaborate on the exemptions beyond the published memoranda but hinted at further developments on Monday.

“I’ll give you that answer on Monday. We’ll be very specific on Monday,” he told reporters on Air Force One. “We’re taking in a lot of money; as a country we’re taking in a lot of money.”

The White House also released a corresponding memo indicating that the exemptions also extend to changes in small-parcel shipping duties. Trump had moved to end the so-called “de minimis” exemption, beginning with China, that generally means parcels worth \$800 or below don’t face duties.

The tariff reprieve may prove fleeting. The exclusions stem from the initial order, which prevented extra tariffs on certain sectors from stacking cumulatively on top of the

country-wide rates. The exclusion is a sign that the products may soon be subject to a different tariff, albeit almost surely a lower one for China.

The products that won’t be subject to Trump’s new tariffs include machines used to make semiconductors. That would be important for Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., which has announced a major new investment in the U.S., as well as other chip-makers.

“All products that are properly classified in these listed provisions will be excluded from the reciprocal tariffs,” the notice said.

The move appeared to exclude the products from the 10% global baseline tariff on other countries, including Samsung Electronics Co.’s home of South Korea.

The tariff reprieve does not extend to a separate Trump levy on China — a 20% duty applied to pressure Beijing to crack down on fentanyl, including the shipment of precursor materials. Other previously existing levies, including those that predate Trump’s current term, also appear unaffected.

Israel bombs Gaza hospital as military operations intensify

OMAR TAMO
Bloomberg News

The Israeli army said it targeted a command and control center used by Hamas located inside Al Ahli Hospital in northern Gaza, a day after establishing a new corridor dividing Rafah from the rest of the Gaza Strip and expanding its military offensive.

Hamas used the compound to plan and execute attacks against Israeli civilians and troops, the Israel Defense Forces said Sunday. The IDF took measures to minimize harm to civilians prior to the strike,

including issuing warnings, using precision-guided munitions, and conducting aerial surveillance, it added.

Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the European Union, denied using the hospital for military purposes. The militant group added that Israel’s attack placed the hospital out of service.

Hours later, the Israeli military said it struck another Hamas command and control center in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.

The bombing of one the few remaining functioning hospitals in

Gaza comes as Israel widens its military offensive in the strip. The strike underscores the mounting toll on Gaza’s already crippled health system, as fighting intensifies and safe zones grow increasingly scarce.

Thousands of fighters from Hamas swarmed into Israel on October 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 hostage, triggering the war. Israel’s subsequent offensive on Gaza has killed more than 50,000 people, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Israel meanwhile has lost hundreds of soldiers in the war.

Kansas lawmakers approve creation of new child care department, change regulations

BY MORGAN CHILSON
Kansas Reflector

The House and Senate moved forward this week to create a new Kansas Office of Early Childhood, merging three departments that govern child care in the state, while loosening regulations for child care providers and providing an opt-out for required child vaccinations.

Both chambers passed House Bill 2045, sending the legislation on to Gov. Laura Kelly for her approval.

“This bipartisan legislation is a win for businesses, child care providers and most importantly, Kansas children and families,” Kelly said in a statement. “Now, our early childhood system will no longer be bogged down by inefficiencies and bureaucratic red tape. I look forward to signing House Bill 2045 as we streamline access to high-quality early childhood services and make Kansas the premier place to raise a family.”

The bill’s passage came over objections from several lawmakers about the lack of a fiscal note and opportunity to debate.

Sen. Beverly Gossage, a Eudora Republican, said the bill was the result of three years’ worth of work to put governance of private child care under one umbrella.

“We had licensing under the Department of Education, we had funding under DCF, we had the Children’s Cabinet,” she said. “So the idea was to create the Office of Early Childhood and have a director in that office, overseeing three subdivisions.”

The bill also looks at child care regulations, making changes to allow fewer education require-



Sen. Beverly Gossage spoke this week about the importance of creating a new department, the Kansas Early Childhood Office, to get all child-care governance under one umbrella. (Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)

ments for some workers in a child care facility and changing ratios of the number of adults to children, Gossage said.

The bill also changes vaccination requirements, allowing a child’s guardian to avoid the immunization requirements if they provide a signed written statement that immunizations violate sincerely held religious beliefs.

Several legislators raised concerns that such a significant change as adding a new department was coming before the Legislature in a conference committee report, which is negotiated by representatives from both the House and Senate and can’t be amended by either chamber. Sen. Doug Shane, a Louisburg Republican, said he thinks the 63-page bill should be debated in front of the Senate.

“I really appreciate and agree with a lot of changes that are brought forth in the bill, including trying to decouple child care from burdensome regulations, but I’m concerned without thoroughly vetting this and with the creation of a new agency that we set ourselves up for long-term challenges,” he said. “Echoing the famous words of Ronald

Reagan, it feels a little bit like we’re from the government and we’re here to help, which is probably what created our child care crisis to begin with.”

In the House, Rep. Barb Wasinger, a Hays Republican, raised concerns about the bill’s fiscal note, or lack thereof.

“It starts a whole new agency, which means more full-time employees, which means more money to the Children’s Cabinet. It means starting a whole new preschool area involved with child care in the school district,” she said. “I think this is

a good bill with some bad changes.”

Rep. Susan Ruiz, D-Shawnee, assured the House that consolidating departments under the new banner of an Early Childhood Office doesn’t necessarily mean new costs, but some representatives remained unconvinced.

“I just cannot support something where we don’t know how it is going to affect us financially,” said Rep. Carrie Barth, R-Baldwin City.

Rep. Sean Tarwater, R-Stilwell, argued that the changes to child care regulations are much needed.

“I had a lot of the same concerns that you all do, but over time we worked through it and we think this is a good bill,” he said. “It’s going to open up thousands of slots for day care. One of the No. 1 reasons people are not in the workforce is because they can’t find day care for their children. This goes a long way in solving that problem.”

The bill passed the Senate 30-10 and the House 99-23.



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Helpful Tips

8 tips for dyeing Easter eggs

Coloring eggs is a beloved Easter tradition. Eggs long have been symbols of fertility and rebirth, making them fitting icons for spring.

One story links eggs to Easter as well. According to some religious scholars, Mary Magdalene, the woman who was the first person to see Jesus Christ after His resurrection, was holding a plain egg in her hand while waiting for the emperor to share the good news. The emperor then told her that Jesus' resurrection was as improbable as that egg suddenly blushing. The egg then turned red.

Dyeing eggs is an entertaining activity, but one that also may have some religious significance. Many families will color eggs this Easter, and these guidelines can make the process go smoothly.

- Wait until just before coloring to hard-boil eggs.

Helpful Tips

Good Housekeeping recommends boiling eggs for 11 minutes for a hard boil. Do not chill the eggs afterward; warm eggs absorb color more effectively for more vivid results.

- Egg dye can stain furniture, clothing or tablecloths. Therefore, dress in clothing that you're not worried about staining. Also, cover work surfaces with an old tablecloth and newspapers to soak up any spills.
- Make a drying rack to ensure that eggs will dry evenly. This can be a rimmed cookie sheet lined with layers of paper towels to absorb any excess dye that runs off the eggs. Or push pins into thick foam board and place the eggs on top to allow air to circulate.
- Consider using glass bowls or ceramic mugs to house the colored dye solutions. These vessels are more sturdy than plastic cups, and less likely to be overturned by eager young hands.
- Scissor-style tongs are ideal tools for retrieving eggs from the dye. Eggs tend to slide off of the spoons or wire rings provided in kits, leading to splashing and kids dunking their fingers in to grab eggs.
- Stir dyeing cups often to guarantee consistent color.
- Use electrical tape to make patterns on Easter eggs. Dip the eggs and let dry. Afterwards, remove the tape to reveal the designs.
- If food coloring-based dyes seem too messy, use watercolor paint sets and allow everyone to get creative.

While some people may want to use Easter eggs for recipes later on, it may be safer to boil up a fresh batch of eggs for that purpose, even if it seems wasteful. According to Emily Rubin, RD, LDN of the Thomas Jefferson University Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, "hard-boiled eggs should be refrigerated within two hours of cooking and discarded if left out for more than two hours at room temperature." Chances are it may take two hours or more for children to find hard-boiled eggs hidden by the Easter bunny.

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