

MAINE STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON RESTRICTED TECHNOLOGY

FEBRUARY 2023

Overview

- Between 2015 and 2023, the state of Maine spent \$5,350,803 on restricted Chinese technology from Lenovo, Inc.
- All purchases were made by the Bureau of Information Services.

Recent Progress

- In February 2023, Sen. Lisa Keim sponsored LR 1814, an act to prohibit state contracts with companies owned or operated by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

The Problem

- Chinese government-owned technology manufacturers Lenovo and Lexmark have been restricted from U.S. military and intelligence agencies due to their connection to the Chinese government and military. While federal policy directs information security at the federal level, states must determine their own security standards making states vulnerable to intrusion through the purchase of these risky Chinese technology products. For more detail on these two manufacturers and others, see our briefing paper at www.StatesStopChinaTech.com.

The Process

- On August 15, 2022, China Tech Threat (CTT) reached out to the Maine Department of Administration requesting documents relevant to Lexmark and Lenovo, requesting exact numbers, dollars spent, products and services purchased, and the quantity of products and services purchased. Following a series of subsequent emails and phone calls to advance the request, CTT has not yet received a response. CTT was able to access the above information through the vendor information in the Maine Open CheckBook public record system. According to the public records, there were no purchases made between 2018 and 2021.
- However, purchases of restricted technology through third-party resellers, which can be significant, are not yet captured in our research. For example, the National Association of State Procurement Officers identifies the following [qualified resellers](#) in Maine: CDWG, GovConnection, and SHI. Any future efforts to identify and restrict purchases of Chinese-owned technology manufacturers should include resellers.

Bureau of Information Services* purchases of Lenovo technology

- \$53,267 in 2023
- \$42,307 in 2022
- \$397,933 in 2017
- \$989,743 in 2016
- \$3,867,553 in 2015

*The Bureau of Information Services likely purchases all technology for the state and distributes it to all state agencies. CTT is currently seeking more details about the agencies to which the technology is distributed.