# Georgia overrides President's veto on 'foreign influence' law amid international backlash



Georgia’s Parliament has overridden President Salome Zourabichvili's veto of the contentious 'foreign influence' law, which mandates that civil society organizations and media outlets receiving over 20% of their funding from abroad register as "agents of foreign influence." The legislation, which has prompted significant protests and international condemnation, is criticized for being inspired by a similar Russian law used to suppress pro-Western groups.

The parliamentary vote occurred on May 28, 2024, with an overwhelming 84-4 majority rejecting the veto. With the president’s refusal to sign the bill, the Parliament Speaker may enact it into law. Critics, including President Zourabichvili, argue the legislation undermines Georgia’s democratic aspirations and positions the country closer to Russia rather than the West.

The bill has drawn sharp criticism from Western nations, with the United States imposing travel sanctions on Georgian officials involved. Demonstrations have continued to surge in the capital, Tbilisi, with protesters and police clashing. The European Union has also indicated that the bill's adoption hinders Georgia's integration into the EU.

The ruling Georgian Dream party, alleged to be influenced by Russia, denies these claims, maintaining that the law aims to curb detrimental foreign interference. The controversy underscores the broader geopolitical contest between Western alignment and Russian influence in Georgia.