

Yarmouth Congressional Debate Docket

1. United States Secularism Act

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. SECTION 1. All statements adopted by the government of the United States of America must
3. henceforth be secular in nature.
4. SUBSECTION A. The phrase “under God” shall hereby be eliminated from the United States
5. Pledge of Allegiance.
6. SUBSECTION B. The phrase “In God we trust” shall be removed from all U.S. currency
7. produced henceforth.
8. SUBSECTION C. All levels of government shall be forbidden from adopting or maintaining the
9. phrase “In God we trust” as an official motto.
10. SUBSECTION D. The phrase “So help me God” shall be federally eliminated from all Oaths of
11. Office.
12. SUBSECTION E. No longer shall a religious text be permissible as a prop to be utilized when
13. swearing in in a court of law or in any other official legal or governmental setting.
14. SUBSECTION F. Any other preexisting nonsecular statements adopted or maintained by the
15. United States government shall henceforth be eliminated and prohibited.
16. SECTION 2. A ‘nonsecular statement’ shall be defined as a definite or clear expression
17. denoting attitudes, activities, or other entities that have religious or spiritual basis in
18. speech or writing.
19. SECTION 3. The implementation of this legislation shall be enforced by the Civil Rights
20. Division of the Department of Justice with the exception of Section 1, Subsection B, which shall
21. be enforced by the Department of the Treasury.
22. SECTION 4. This bill shall be enacted on January 1, 2022.
23. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully introduced by Madeline Corson, Yarmouth High School

2. A Bill to Legalize Prostitution

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. SECTION 1. Prostitution will be legalized across the nation.
3. SECTION 2. Prostitution is defined as the exchange of consensual sexual acts for
monetary
4. compensation.
5. SECTION 3. Consent in the context of prostitution is defined as an explicit written
agreement by
6. parties 18 years of age or older to sexual services performed.
7. SECTION 4. The Department of Labor will enforce this piece of legislation, and the
Department
8. of Health will oversee sexually-transmitted infection (STI) testing for the distribution of
licenses
9. as outlined below.
10. SUBSECTION A. To legally practice prostitution, a practitioner must first obtain a
license in the
11. following manner.
12. SUBSECTION B. To be eligible for a licence, a practitioner must be at least 18 years of
age, be a
13. United States citizen, have no sex offenses on record, and be able to pass an STI test
14. administered by a state-employed physician every month. Should a practitioner lose his
or her
15. citizenship or be convicted of a sex offense after a license is issued, his or her license will
be
16. revoked indefinitely. Should a practitioner fail to pass or refuse to take an STI test after
already
17. having obtained a license, his or her license will be revoked until a state employed
physician can
18. confirm a negative STI test.
19. SUBSECTION C. All costs associated with this legislation shall be funded by a 5% tax
on the
20. earnings of prostitutes.
21. SECTION 5. This bill will be enacted January 1, 2021.
22. SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by Yarmouth High School

3. A Bill to Levy an Additional Tax on the Sale of Electronic Cigarettes

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
 2. SECTION 1. Sales of electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) shall be subject to an additional tax of 45%.
 3. SECTION 2. An e-cig is defined as “a cigarette-shaped device containing a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled, used to simulate the experience of smoking tobacco” (Oxford).
 4. SECTION 3. This legislation will be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
 5. SUBSECTION A. All funds acquired from said taxes shall be equally distributed between the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be used for research connected to e-cigs.
 6. SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect on January 1, 2020 .
 7. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
- Introduced by Dorcas Bolese, Yarmouth High School

4. A Resolution Amending the Constitution to Remove Presidential Term Limits

1. WHEREAS the will of the voters should reign supreme regardless the length of a politician's
2. tenure, be it
3. RESOLVED, That upon approval of two-thirds of the chamber of this Congress here assembled,
4. the following Constitutional amendment be sent to the state legislatures for approval:
5. SECTION 1: The twenty-second article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is
6. hereby repealed.
7. SECTION 2: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Respectfully introduced by Joshua Leinwand and Mia Ginsberg of Yarmouth High School

5. A Bill to Shorten Copyright Duration

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. SECTION 1. The time it takes for a copyright on intellectual property to expire will revert
3. back to 14 years, following which period works shall enter the public domain.
4. SECTION 2. Intellectual Properties are defined as “works of authorship including literary,
5. dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer
6. software, and architecture” (U.S. Copyright Office).
7. SECTION 3. Copyrights active at the time of this bill’s passage shall expire 14 years
8. from the date of passage, at which point said works shall enter the public domain.
9. SECTION 4. The Copyright Office will oversee the implementation of this bill.
10. SECTION 5. This bill will go into effect on April 1, 2020.
11. SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by Nathaniel Snow of Yarmouth High School

6. A Bill to Institute a Federal Minimum Wage for Teachers

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. SECTION 1. A federal minimum wage shall be instituted for teachers.
3. SECTION 2. Starting teachers’ wages must be at least 200% of the average per capita income for the community in which the teacher resides.
4. SECTION 3. The implementation of this bill shall be overseen by the Department of Labor.
5. SUBSECTION A. Funding for this bill shall be diverted from the budget of the Federal Bureau
6. of Prisons.
7. SECTION 4. This bill shall go into effect on January 1st, 2030.
8. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted by Avi Singh and RJ Jama of Yarmouth High School

7. A Resolution Amending the Constitution to Enfranchise Felons

1. WHEREAS, becoming a felon does entail loss of citizenship.
2. WHEREAS, the prison system is designed to rehabilitate a felon prior to releasing said felon
3. back into society, be it
4. RESOLVED, That upon approval of two-thirds of the chamber of this Congress
5. here assembled, the following Constitutional amendment be sent to the
6. state legislatures for approval:
7. SECTION 1: The right to vote of a felon who has been released from prison shall not be
8. infringed.
9. SECTION 2: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced by Kelsey Nihezagirwe and Bettina Bolese of Yarmouth High School

8. An Act to Declare Canada the Official Hat of the United States

1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
2. SECTION 1. The Dominion of Canada is henceforth declared to be the Official Hat of the
3. United States of America.
4. SUBSECTION A. All governmental documents officially referencing the Dominion of
5. Canada shall be altered to replace the terms “Canada” or “Dominion of Canada” with
6. “America’s
7. Hat.”
8. SUBSECTION B. All employees and elected officials of the United States government,
9. including employees of the federal government, states, districts, departments, and any
10. other U.S.
11. government affiliates must hereinafter refer to the nation of Canada as “America’s Hat.”
12. SECTION 2. Employees and elected officials of the United States government who do
13. not abide
14. by this clause shall incur consequences according to the following Three Strike system.
15. SUBSECTION A. Upon first infraction, the guilty party must issue a formal public apology.
16. SUBSECTION B. Upon second infraction, the guilty party shall be required to wear a
17. government-issued head-adornment in the shape of America’s Hat (formerly known as
18. Canada
19. for a period of thirty days when making public appearances.

16. SUBSECTION C. Upon third infraction, the guilty party shall be charged with high treason in a
17. federal court of law, and, if found guilty, it shall be recommended that the convict be drowned in
18. a vat of pure maple syrup.
19. SECTION 3. The implementation of this legislation shall be jointly enforced by the
20. Department of Justice and the Department of Defense.
21. SECTION 4. This bill shall be enacted on January 1, 2022.
22. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully introduced by Madeline Corson, Yarmouth High School

9. A Bill to Broaden the Financial Spectrum of the Pell Grant Program

1. Be it enacted by the representatives here assembled that:
2. SECTION 1. The United States Government will double the annual award maximum
3. and double the expected family contribution eligibility of the Pell Grant program in
4. order to provide the subsidy to a broader range of students attending college.
5. The broadening of the spectrum will go towards providing grants for families on a
6. broader income level.
- A. Define broadening as the action to expand and encompass more people.
- B. Define spectrum as a range, normally used to classify something that can be placed between two broad points.
7. SECTION 3. The United States Department of Education shall oversee this
8. legislation.
9. SECTION 4. This law shall take effect immediately upon passage.
10. SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by Maine District

10. A Resolution to Grant Statehood to Puerto Rico

1. WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has voted several times in favor of attaining statehood; and
2. WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has adopted a territorial constitution which was approved by the
3. U.S. Congress in 1951 as “not repugnant” to the U.S. Constitution and is the functional
4. equivalent of a valid state constitution; and
5. WHEREAS, A U.S. Senate committee has heard testimony on Puerto Rico’s 2012 statehood

6. referendum vote and acknowledged that the majority of Puerto Rican people had voted in
7. favor of statehood; and
8. WHEREAS, Puerto Rican citizens are already automatically granted full U.S. Citizenship;
9. now, therefore, be it
10. RESOLVED, That the Student Congress here assembled shall hereby grant full statehood to
11. the U.S. Territory Puerto Rico.
Introduced by Maine District

11) A Bill to Increase Public Investment in Geothermal Energy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. \$500 million shall be allocated toward the subsidization of the US geothermal energy industry.

SECTION 2. Geothermal energy shall be defined as energy derived and generated from heat stored in the Earth.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Energy shall be charged with the implementation of this legislation.

A. Funding for this legislation shall come from an increase in the federal gas tax of 2 cents per gallon.

B. All additional or leftover funds shall be redirected to the National Highway Trust Fund.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect FY 2021.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by NSDA