



2022 Asheville High Cougar Classic Legislation Packet

Please read these docket and procedural rules very carefully. They will be in effect for the duration of the tournament.

1. Each session (Session 1, Session 2 and Finals) has three main pieces of legislation. That is nine total topics to research.
2. Chambers will decide among themselves by a majority vote of the chamber what order to debate the three main pieces of legislation assigned to each session.
3. No additional legislation may be considered. If a chamber debates all three pieces for that session, the session is over. All students should be prepared to speak on each topic for the session.
4. The docket agenda can be amended at any time by a 2/3 vote of the chamber, but students may only move around the three pieces of main legislation for that session. **Competitors may not move legislation from other sessions.**
5. Each piece of legislation must have a minimum of both one affirmative and one negative speech before calling for previous question. Students are encouraged to debate each topic thoroughly but not to the point of rehash. Chamber members should call for previous question when debate gets stale.

6. RECENCY: Each chamber will receive a randomized list of students from the Tab Room. This list shall serve as the initial precedence list for speeches. Precedence for questions shall follow the reverse order of the speech precedence list. Each chamber will receive a new precedence list for the second session.
7. PRESIDING OFFICERS:
 - Parliamentarians will use strawpoll.com or strawpoll.me to conduct virtual PO elections.
 - Novice chambers will elect Presiding Officers. Coaches should teach their Congress students how to preside ahead of the tournament.
 - There will be only one Presiding Officer per session.
8. Cross examination will use direct questioning with individual questioning periods of 30 seconds until the total cross examination time for the speaker has expired. The Presiding Officer will keep a separate recency chart for this and ensure that all competitors have an equal chance to ask questions. Initial precedence for questioning will follow the reverse order of the initial speech precedence list.

LEGISLATION DOCKET

Finals will not be held if there is only one preliminary chamber. If no final session is held, legislation designated for finals may be used as backup if and only if all other legislation in a session is debated and voted on.

Session One (Chamber decides order):

- A. A Bill to End Federal Recognition of Thanksgiving
- B. A Bill to Cede the Majority of Washington, DC to Maryland
- C. A Bill to Ban “Best Before” Labels

Session Two (Chamber decides order):

- A. A Bill to End Distracted Driving
- B. A Resolution to Encourage U.S. Cities to Ban Motor Vehicles from Downtown Areas
- C. A Bill to Invest in the Puerto Rican Power Grid

Finals [if necessary] (Chamber decides order):

- A. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Abolish the Senate
- B. A Bill to Forbid the Use of Credit Scores in Lending
- C. A Bill to Require Follow-up and Closure in Media Coverage of Alleged Crime

A Bill to End Federal Recognition of Thanksgiving

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Thanksgiving Day, being the fourth Thursday in the month of November, shall no longer be
3 recognized or observed as a federal holiday.

4 **SECTION 2.** On the fourth Thursday in November, all federal government offices shall remain open,
5 stock market trading shall continue as normal, and federal government employees shall not
6 be eligible for any special leave. State and local governments and private businesses may
7 choose to continue recognizing and observing Thanksgiving if they see fit.

8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

9 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Cede the Majority of Washington, D.C. to Maryland

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** The territory of the District of Columbia (D.C.) shall be ceded to Maryland to become part
3 of that state, with the exception of an area surrounding the U.S. Capitol Building, the
4 Supreme Court, the White House, and the National Mall, with that area's borders drawn
5 along the roads that most closely encircle these locations, which shall remain the nation's
6 constitutionally mandated federal district.

7 **SECTION 2.** One half of D.C.'s current federal budget shall be redirected to Maryland to assist in
8 administering this new territory and in providing for the new Marylanders who live there.
9 The remaining half shall be retained for administration of the nation's federal district.

10 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect on July 16, 2029.

11 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Ban “Best Before” Labels

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** The printing or affixing of “best before” labels on food is henceforth prohibited, as is any
3 other indication that food should be consumed by a certain date unless consumption after
4 that date would pose a verifiable health risk, as determined by the Food and Drug
5 Administration (FDA).

6 **SECTION 2.** The printing or affixing of expiration date labels and of “use by” labels on foods that do
7 pose a health risk when consumed after a certain point will may continue.

8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the FDA.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 20253.

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

A Bill to End Distracted Driving

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall allocate \$100 million per year to fund research into technology that can
3 determine with a high degree of certainty (with a margin of error of no more than 1 in
4 10,000) whether a driver is manually using a mobile electronic device such as a cell phone
5 while operating a motor vehicle and which will immediately alert law enforcement of this
6 fact so that local prohibitions on distracted driving may be more consistently enforced.

7 **SECTION 2.** Once this technology has been developed, the fund shall be re-diverted to states,
8 territories, and the federal district to be used to subsidize installation of devices that track
9 and report this behavior in all registered motor vehicles. States, territories, and the federal
10 district shall have five years from the date of this funding transfer to ensure that all
11 registered motor vehicles within their jurisdiction have this technology installed and
12 functioning. Any that fail to comply shall lose federal highway funding until such time as
13 compliance is reached.

14 **SECTION 3.** Within two years of this funding transfer, all motor vehicles sold within the United States
15 will be required to have this technology installed and functioning. Any vendor that sells a
16 motor vehicle without this technology after this deadline shall be fined \$10,000 per
17 infraction.

18 **SECTION 4.** If this technology has not been developed within three years of the passage of this
19 legislation, a report will be issued to Congress detailing progress and next steps to be
20 considered.

21 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Transportation.

22 **SECTION 6.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

23 **SECTION 7.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to Encourage U.S. Cities to Ban Motor Vehicles from Downtown Areas

- 1 **WHEREAS** Privately-owned motor vehicle traffic is an impediment to the pedestrian activities that are
2 the beating heart of the downtown areas of cities; and
- 3 **WHEREAS** Privately-owned motor vehicle traffic reduces the efficacy of public transportation in urban
4 areas; and
- 5 **WHEREAS** Privately-owned motor vehicle traffic is a major source of air pollution both within cities and
6 elsewhere; now, therefore be it
- 7 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that U.S. cities of all sizes are encouraged to establish
8 privately-owned, motor- vehicle-free zones in their downtown areas to promote pedestrian
9 activities, encourage use of public transportation, and reduce air pollution; and
- 10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress commends New York City (Central Park), among many other US
11 communities both large and small, for already taking steps in this direction.

A Bill to Invest in the Puerto Rican Power Grid

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall direct \$10 billion to the territory of Puerto Rico to be used to strengthen
3 that territory's power grid, specifically to help it withstand and recover from extreme
4 weather events more effectively.

5 **SECTION 2.** These funds shall be offset via a new 10% tax on fossil fuel industry revenues.

6 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Energy. Section 2 shall
7 be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

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

A Bill to Forbid the Use of Credit Scores in Lending

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** No lender may base a decision to approve or deny a loan on an individual's credit score or
3 credit report, nor may lenders use credit scores and reports to determine interest rates or
4 set credit limits.

5 **SECTION 2.** A credit report is defined as an account of an individual's history of repaying debts. A credit
6 score is defined as a statistical representation of a credit report.

7 **SECTION 3.** Any lender found to be in violation of this legislation shall be banned from engaging in
8 lending for a period of 5 years and shall be liable for civil action from the affected
9 individual. If a lender again violates this legislation following the first 5-year ban, the ban
10 shall be reinstated permanently.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

12 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 20253.

13 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Require Follow-up and Closure in Media Coverage of Alleged Crime

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Any media outlet that runs a story on an alleged crime and in doing so mentions the name
3 of, or otherwise clearly identifies any alleged perpetrators, must provide timely and
4 proportional follow-up and closure on the story as soon as any developments become
5 publicly available. Specifically, media outlets must report dropping of charges against an
6 alleged perpetrator and explain the circumstances that led to the false accusation.

7 **SECTION 2.** A media outlet is defined as a company or organization that reports the news to the public
8 via any format, including but not limited to, print distribution, television and radio,
9 podcasts, websites, and social media. In the context of this legislation, timely means within
10 72 hours of the news having become public, unless the next publication or broadcast would
11 not occur within that timespan, in which case the news must be reported whenever the
12 next publication or broadcast does occur (and within 72 hours via the outlet's social media
13 accounts). In the context of this legislation, proportional means with the same prominence
14 and duration as the outlet gave in its initial reporting on the story.

15 **SECTION 3.** Any media outlet found to be in violation of this legislation shall be fined \$100,000 for each
16 infraction and shall be liable to civil action from any individual or individuals whose
17 reputations were maligned by the media outlet's failure to comply. Any media outlet found
18 to have violated this legislation three or more times shall have its license to broadcast or
19 publish news revoked.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Federal Communications Commission.

21 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 20243.

22 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.