



**2023 Blue Ridge Classic
at TC Roberson High
School
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 only be held if there is more than one preliminary chamber.

Session One (Chamber decides order):

- A. A Bill to Protect Federally Employed Whistle Blowers
- B. A Bill to Allow all Federal Employees the Right to Unionize
- C. A Bill to Restrict the Retirement of All Former Congress Members

Session Two (Chamber decides order):

- A. The Spotted Lanternfly Mitigation Act
- B. A Resolution to review the Peace Corps
- C. A Bill to Ban Tackling in Football and Rugby

Finals Legislation (Chamber decides order):

Finals will only be held if there is more than one preliminary chamber. If no finals are held, this legislation may be used as backup legislation in prelims if and only if all other legislation assigned to the session is debated and voted on.

- A. A Bill to Invest in the Trans-African Highway
- B. A Resolution to Discourage Social Media Use Among Elected Officials
- C. A Resolution to Reimburse Private Employers for Federal Holidays

A Bill to Protect Federally Employed Whistle Blowers

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** All United States Federal employees will have complete protection from termination or
3 punishment when providing testimony or information of illicit activities to the legislative or
4 judicial branch.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Illicit activities shall be defined as any activity defined unequivocally by the Law of the
6 Parties as incurring a criminal penalty.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor in conjunction with the Department of Justice and United States
8 Congress Office of Compliance.
- 9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2023. All laws in conflict with this legislation
10 are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Blake Congress Tab.

A Bill to Allow all Federal Employees the Right to Unionize

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All full-time employees of the United States Federal Government shall have the right to
3 unionize.

4 **SECTION 2.** The right to unionize shall be defined as an employee's right "to organize and bargain
5 collectively with their employers, and to engage in other protected concerted activity." A
6 federal employee is defined as a current employee of an agency, including but not limited
7 to current members of the Armed Forces or a Reserve of the Armed Forces (Reserves),
8 employees of the United States Postal Service, and seasonal and temporary employees.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor will oversee enforcement along with the National Labor Relations
10 Board.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2023. All laws in conflict with this legislation
12 are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Blake Congress Tab.

A Bill to Restrict the Retirement of All Former Congress Members

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All members of congress having served two terms in the House or one term in the Senate
3 shall not attain employment in the private sector for 5 years after leaving office.

4 **SECTION 2.** The private sector is defined as organizations and entities that are not part of any
5 governmental structure. The private sector includes for-profit and not-for-profit, formal
6 and informal organizations, commerce, and industry.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Labor Department in conjunction with the Justice Department shall prosecute. If
8 former Congress members are found to have violated this law, they will lose all federal
9 benefits, be fined \$1,000,000, and / or serve a prison term of no more than 2 years with
10 probation of three years.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation
12 are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Blake Tab Staff.

The Spotted Lanternfly Mitigation Act

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall allocate \$1 billion to the Department of the Interior for the express purpose
- 3 of controlling the influx of *Lycorma delicatula* into the United States and preventing further
- 4 spread of this detrimental invasive species.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall allocate an additional \$500 million to the Department of Agriculture to be
- 6 dispersed to farmers adversely affected by *Lycorma delicatula* as that agency sees fit.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** Congress shall increase the tariff rate by one percent to fund this legislation.
- 8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Interior.
- 9 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.
- 10 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to review the Peace Corps

1 **WHEREAS** more than 240,000 U.S. citizens have served in over 140 countries since President Kennedy
2 signed the Peace Corps Act; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Peace Corps has not been reauthorized by Congress in 20 years; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Peace Corps impacts its diverse base of volunteers and the countries it has served in
5 many and various ways; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Peace Corps may be viewed as an exercise of soft power by the U.S. military; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Peace Corps holds bipartisan support; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Peace Corps has not seen a budget increase in seven years; and

9 **WHEREAS** Peace Corps volunteers once again return to other nations following COVID-19 restrictions;
10 therefore be it

11 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that now is the time to conduct an extensive review of the
12 Peace Corps, including whether the Peace Corps should alter its mission and vision,
13 reauthorize as currently constituted, reorganize under a different department of the U.S.
14 government, or completely discontinue operations.

A Bill to Ban Tackling in Football and Rugby

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Tackling is hereby prohibited in public elementary, middle, and secondary education sports
3 in football, rugby, and any other activities where tackling is standard practice within the
4 sport. The use of flags as a stand-in for tackling shall remain legal, and public and private
5 leagues at all levels are encouraged to embrace this humane adaptation.

6 **SECTION 2.** Tackling is defined as the intentional use of physical contact and force to arrest another
7 player's movement, bring that player to the ground, and/or compel that player to lose
8 possession of the ball.

9 **SECTION 3.** Any public school found to be allowing tackling sports without penalty shall be fined \$1,000
10 for each violation.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services
12 and the Department of Education.

13 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on August 1, 2025.

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

A Bill to Invest in the Trans-African Highway

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall deliver \$10 billion to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African
3 Union (AU), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to support
4 the completion of the Trans-African Highway network.

5 **SECTION 2.** Congress directs the Department of State to work actively and aggressively to facilitate
6 cooperation among the nations involved in the construction of these highways so that they
7 may be completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

8 **SECTION 3.** Funding for this legislation shall be diverted from the Department of Defense budget.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

10 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

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

A Resolution to Discourage Social Media Use Among Elected Officials

- 1 **WHEREAS** Politicians at all levels have become over reliant on social media to argue and communicate
2 policy proposals online to niche audiences and platforms; and
- 3 **WHEREAS** Disruption in the social media space among Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, and other prominent
4 social media platforms has made credibility and trust a matter of public concern; and
- 5 **WHEREAS** The lack of fact-checking and mediation among nearly all social media platforms have
6 become inconsistent with the virtues of open communication with the public; and
- 7 **WHEREAS** Political figures of all types spend disproportionate time on social media platforms, either by
8 themselves or their designees, time that could be better spent governing and
9 communicating through other channels; and
- 10 **WHEREAS** Members of this Congress have proposed to ban TikTok from all government phones due to
11 concerns over data privacy; therefore be it
- 12 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that all holders of political office (federal, state, county,
13 municipal, and local) remove social media apps from their phones; and
- 14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congressional and other political leaders will vow to discontinue their use of
15 public social media accounts so that public deliberation, policy implementation, and
16 enforcement no longer take place online but are a part of public debate on the floors of
17 their respective legislative bodies only.

A Resolution to Reimburse Private Employers for Federal Holidays

1 **WHEREAS** Federal employees, with some exceptions by law, are entitled to paid holiday time off when
2 excused from duty on Federal Holidays; and

3 **WHEREAS** private sector employees may or may not be entitled to paid holiday time off based upon
4 their employer's designated policies; and

5 **WHEREAS** all employees should have the opportunity to recognize the importance of Federal Holidays;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS** some employees are not able to take time off from Federal Holidays as they are designated
8 essential employees; and

9 **WHEREAS** private employers may be discouraged from offering paid holiday time off; therefore be it

10 **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that a committee be formed to examine the compensation
11 of private employers for wages and benefits accrued during Federal Holidays, which may
12 include but are not limited to tax rebates, payroll tax relief, or direct payments to private
13 employers, including compensation of double-time payments for employees who are
14 required to work during Federal Holidays.