

2023 East Texas Congress Docket

For clarification, at NSDA East Texas Congress:

1. The Congress Docket for each round of debate is locked. No other items may be debated. Legislation must be debated in the order listed.
2. No item may be tabled until it has been debated, per definition in #3.
3. Debate on an item means that at least one of the following has occurred: one cycle(authorship/sponsorship and a con speech) or three speeches on the same side. At this point, an item may be tabled, or previous question may be moved.
4. Competitors will not receive any other legislation beyond what is posted.

Prelims

1--A Bill to Increase US Railway Safety --Taylor

2--A Bill to Regulate Fast Fashion—Northland Christian

3--A Bill to End Lifetime Federal Court Appointments--Taylor

4--A Resolution to Remove Sanctions Off Venezuela--Jordan

5--A Resolution to Abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs Agency--Dulles

6--A Bill to Eliminate the Business Expense Cap of Educators—Beaumont United

Finals

1--A Resolution to Impose Sanctions on the State of Israel--Dulles

2--A Bill to Restrict Usage of GPT Transformer Programs in Public Schools—Grand Oaks

3--A Bill to Codify US Supreme Court Ethical Standards--Taylor

4--A Bill to Ban Sports Betting--Conroe

5--A Bill to Foster High Speed Rail—Oak Ridge

6--A Bill to Implement Ponds throughout local parks—Woodlands College Park

P1--A Bill to Increase US Railway Safety

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All railway companies utilizing US railway systems will be required to
3 implement the following additional safety measures:

4 A. Personnel standards

- 5 1. A minimum of 2-person crews will be required for all railway
6 operations.
- 7 2. Staffing levels must be maintained to ensure that no individuals
8 are required to work more than 48 hours per week.
- 9 3. All companies must provide a minimum of 3 days of paid sick
10 leave per year for employees.

11 B. Safety standards

- 12 1. Electronically controlled pneumatic (ECP) brakes will be required
13 on all trains transporting hazardous materials.
- 14 2. Maximum train length will be limited to 10,000 feet.
- 15 3. Participation in a unified, real-time, satellite (GPS) navigation
16 system to monitor railway traffic will be required.

17 **SECTION 2.** The US Department of Transportation will oversee the implementation of
18 these requirements with enforcement through the Federal Railroad
19 Administration.

20 A. The maximum fine for violation of safety regulations will be increased
21 to \$1 million per incident.

22 B. The Department of Transportation will allocate \$10 million to develop
23 a real-time GPS navigation application system for US railways in
24 conjunction with the US technology sector.

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

27 *Introduced for Congressional Debate by James E. Taylor High School.*

P2--A Bill to Regulate Fast Fashion to Decrease Inhumane Working Conditions and Pollution

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will place a ban on orders more than \$250 from
3 unethical or fast fashion companies.

4 **SECTION 2.** Unethical/fast fashion companies are defined as corporations that have
5 inhumane working conditions, unsafe chemicals in clothing, or harm the
6 environment (i.e. Forever 21, SHEIN, H&M, and Zara).

7 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission will work in conjunction with the
8 Environmental Protection Agency to oversee the proper enforcement of
9 this bill.

10 A. Any companies found not in compliance with this bill shall be fined
11 \$10,000 per violation.

12 B. The Environmental Protection Agency will provide insight on
13 practices executed by corporations.

14 C. The Federal Trade Commission will begin monitoring companies
15 found in direct violations within their environmental practices.

16 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2024. All laws in conflict
17 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Northland Christian School.

P3--A Bill to End Lifetime Federal Court Appointments

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All federal lifetime judgeship appointments will be rescinded and subject
3 to term limitations.

4 **SECTION 2.** Courts affected by term limits will include the United States Supreme
5 Court, Federal Appellate Courts, and Federal District Courts.

6 **SECTION 3.** The United States Courts Office of Administrative Oversight and
7 Accountability will oversee the implementation of the following
8 provisions:

- 9 A. All US Supreme Court appointments will be limited to 18-year
10 nonrenewable terms, with Federal Appellate and District Court
11 appointments limited to 12-year nonrenewable terms.
- 12 B. New Supreme Court judges will be appointed in two-year cycles.
13 Phase-in will begin with the longest tenured judge, continuing every
14 two years until the 18-year cycle is established.
- 15 C. Appellate and District judge appointments will follow an annual cycle.
- 16 D. In the case of the death or retirement of an appointed judge, the
17 President will nominate, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a
18 judge to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. The appointed
19 judge would not be eligible to serve an additional term.

20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024. All laws in conflict
21 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by James E. Taylor High School.

P4--A Resolution to Remove Sanctions Off Venezuela

1 **WHEREAS,** The Maduro Regime has caused widespread poverty and
2 suffering for their citizens; and

3 **WHEREAS,** The economic situation has worsened in recent years, as 3 in
4 4 Venezuelans are currently living in extreme poverty; and

5 **WHEREAS,** The sanctions have prevented US economic activity and aid
6 within Venezuela; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Ever since US sanctions were placed, the conditions have
8 become increasingly worse; now, therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled removes all economic
10 sanctions from Venezuela; and be it

11 **Further Resolved,** The US will conduct yearly audits to analyze the situation after
12 removing sanctions.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jordan High School.

P5--A Resolution to Abolish the U.S. Immigration and Customs

Agency to Stop the Mistreatment of Migrants

1 **WHEREAS,** The U.S. Immigration and Customs Agency currently mistreats migrants
2 crossing our borders; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Migrants crossing the border are escaping unfavorable conditions and
4 seeking a better life. However, the ICE has criminalized migrants, and has
5 kept them imprisoned in adverse conditions; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Conditions in ICE detention centers include inadequate health care, lack
7 of basic necessities, sexual assault, unfair treatment, separation of
8 families, unsafe housing, and several other health concerns; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Management, and employees in the ICE have shown to be corrupt and
10 abusive; now, therefore, be it

[illegible]

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the creation of a replacement migrant integration/care
15 agency and the Center of Countering Human Trafficking will not be
16 affected by the legislation and continue functioning as a separate agency.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dulles High School

P6--A Bill to Eliminate the Business Expense Cap of Educators

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The business expenses incurred by qualified educators filed on federal
3 taxes have no maximum.

4 **SECTION 2.** Business expenses are costs incurred in the ordinary course of business.
5 They can apply to small entities or large corporations. In this case small
6 entity is interpreted as personal. Business expenses will also be qualified
7 as: continuing education classes that a school district did not reimburse
8 or offer to reimburse; any college classes past a bachelor level a school
9 district did not pay for or offered to pay; meals when traveling for
10 professional development; organizational dues or subscriptions, travel
11 expenses and mileage for professional development that a district did not
12 reimburse; office supplies; class gifts; certification exams a district did not
13 pay for or reimburse; professional book and magazine subscriptions a
14 district did not pay for or reimburse.

15 A qualified educator is determined if, for the tax year a person is a
16 kindergarten through grade 12 teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or
17 aide for at least 900 hours a school year in a school that provides
18 elementary or secondary education as determined under state law.

19 **SECTION 3.** The IRS will enforce the new tax codes along with the United States
20 Department of the Treasury.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with
22 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Beaumont United High School.

F1--A Resolution to Impose Sanctions on the State of Israel

1 **WHEREAS,** The Israeli government is in violation of the Rome Statute due to Crimes
2 against Humanity and Crime of Apartheid, but also US policies such as the
3 Foreign Assistance Act, and the Arms Export Control Act; and

4 **WHEREAS,** For decades it has gone ignored by the US and other countries in the
5 continued support of the state which has resulted in the perpetual
6 violation of the Palestinians; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Human rights abuses such as rejection of unalienable rights, targeting
8 killing of Palestinian civilians, denial of medical treatment, brutalization
9 of children, torture, and colonization of land; now, therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled impose economic, diplomatic, and
11 military sanctions on the State of Israel; and, be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That we should recognize Palestine as its own sovereign nation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dulles High School

F2--A Bill to Ban Usage of Generative Pre-Trained Transformer Programs in Public Schools

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The federal Department of Education will restrict the use of Generative
3 Pre-Trained Transformer Programs in school-owned networks and devices.

4 Along with the ban in schools, this bill moves to establish technology
5 assistance that hold official goals of research advocacy and the
6 development of career-supported learning.

7 **SECTION 2.** Principles of education shall follow Title 20, Chapter 44, Section 2302 in
8 which technical education is required to enforce independent thinking that
9 includes the use of a competent mindset and active development of
10 reasoning skills in students. Generative Pre-Trained Transformer Programs,
11 ChatGPT serving as an example, are language models that collect a large
12 set of data to generate text that parallels a human-like script.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this bill.

14 A. The Office of Elementary and Secondary Schools will enroll programs that
15 focus on guidance for technological assistance for both teachers and students

16 B. The National Science Foundation will continue to partner with the
17 Department of Education in order to increase the research productivity
18 of students.

19 C. On January 1st of each year following the establishment of the
20 restriction and education program, The National Center of Education
21 Statistics will conduct a periodic review consisting of both quantitative
22 and qualitative properties.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Grand Oaks High School

F-3 A Bill to Codify US Supreme Court Ethical Standards

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Members of the United States Supreme Court will be required to adhere to prescribed judicial codes of conduct governing other federal court systems.

SECTION 2. Under this Code of Conduct Justices will

A. File a public financial disclosure report that includes investments by members of the Justice's immediate family.

B. Perform the duties of office fairly, impartially, and diligently.

C. Recuse from cases in which there is an appearance of impropriety.

D. Refrain from political activity.

E. Avoid extrajudicial activities that would be inconsistent with the obligations of office.

SECTION 3. The Administrative Office of the US Courts will oversee enforcement of these standards.

C. Violations of these standards may be reported to the Administration Office (AO) for investigation.

D. Justices found in violation of these standards may be subject to any or all of the following:

1. Mandatory recusal from any participation in cases in question.

2. Suspension of duties for a specified period of time.

3. Referral to Congress with recommendation for impeachment.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by James E. Taylor High School.

F4--A Bill to Ban Sports Betting

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The FTC will ban all activities related to sports betting, and
3 criminalize the running, enabling, or facilitation of sports betting
4 activities.

5 **SECTION 2.** Sports betting will be defined as the act of predicting the outcome
6 of a sporting event, and placing a wage, with a risk of win or loss.
7 This includes both physical and digital sports books.

8 **SECTION 3.** The FTC will be given 120 million dollars to oversee the shutting
9 down, and to deal with a subsequent lawsuits.

10 **SECTION 4.** Any organization or individual found to be in violation of this
11 legislation, 6 months after implementation of this legislation, will be
12 forced to pay 120% of revenue earned from their operation to the
13 National Council on Problem Gambling, without tax benefits.
14 Individuals or Organizations the FTC deems repeat offenders will be
15 referred to the DoJ for criminal prosecution of those in charge. All
16 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and
17 void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Conroe High School.

F5--A Bill to foster the development of a High Speed Rail Network and Electrify the U.S rail network to Mitigate Climate Change

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States government shall substantially invest in commuter and
3 freight rail infrastructure to create a high speed rail network that spans the nation.

4 A. The Department of Transportation shall be allocated an additional \$200
5 billion on top of the allocation from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

6 B. The Department of Transportation will ensure the electrification of all the
7 federally owned and privately owned commuter routes in the Nation.

8 C. Amtrak will be allocated \$50 billion to electrify and modernize all their locomotives
9 and rolling stocks.

10 **SECTION 2.** A. “High Speed Rail” shall be defined as a type of rail system that runs
11 significantly faster than traditional rail, using an integrated system of specialised rolling stock
12 and dedicated tracks.

13 B. “Rolling Stock” shall be defined as railway vehicles, including both powered and unpowered
14 vehicles: for example, locomotives, freight and passenger cars.

15 C. “Amtrak” shall be defined as The National Railroad Passenger
16 Corporation, the national passenger railroad company of the United States.

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 A. Both the United States House and Senate Committees on appropriations shall oversee
19 the allocation of funds

20 B. The United States Department of Transportation will oversee the implementation of this Bill.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2024.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Oak Ridge High School

F6--A Bill to Construct Ponds throughout U.S. National Parks and Wildlife Reserves

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress finds that the current species diversity in U.S. National Parks is
3 facing significant losses which weakens our ability to combat current
4 climate change concerns. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall fund the
5 creation and implementation of one man-made pond within every 100,000
6 acres of National Park and Wildlife Reserve land, defined by the United
7 States National Park Service, to encourage the rehabilitation of broken
8 ecosystems.

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 A. "Mad-made" is defined as anything constructed or manufactured by
11 humans.

12 B. "Pond" is defined as a still, small area of freshwater

13 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall be responsible for the
14 implementation of this legislation.

15 C. Bi-yearly audits will be carried out to ensure significant progress and
16 development are being made.

17 D. If it is determined that significant progress and development has not
18 been made within 5 years of this legislation's implementation, National
19 Parks and Wildlife Reserves will be fined \$10,000 for the first offense
20 and an additional \$10,000 for every additional offense.

21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on April 22, 2024. All laws in conflict with
22 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by The Woodlands College Park HS