

National Speech and Debate Association **Arkansas District** Tournament Docket - 2023

**Preliminary Round**

- Item 1 - A Bill to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting for Elections
- Item 2 - A Bill to Prohibit External Advertising in Public Spaces to Dampen the Negative Effects of Advertising on the Human Brain
- Item 3 - A Bill to Restrict the Retirement of All Former Congress Members
- Item 4 - A Resolution to Discourage Social Media Use Among Elected Officials

**Final Round**

- Item 5 - A Bill to Raise the Federal Excise Tax on Ammunition and Use the Revenue to Fund Education Programs
- Item 6 - A Bill to Invest in the Trans-African Highway
- Item 7 - The Spotted Lanternfly Mitigation Act
- Item 8 - A Resolution to Reimburse Private Employers for Federal Holidays

Item 1

A Bill to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting for Elections

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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- SECTION 1.** A. Ranked Choice Voting is to be adopted for all levels of governmental elections, replacing the standard plurality voting system. Voters will be able to rank up to 10 candidates of their preference on their ballots.
- SECTION 2.** A. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a proven voting method to accommodate having more than two choices in elections. RCV creates incentives for candidates to expand their campaigns and for voters to consider their choices without splitting their votes that may result in an unrepresentative election outcome.
- B. If a candidate wins an outright majority (more than 50%) they will be declared the winner
- C. If no candidates win an outright majority of first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first preference votes will be eliminated. If a voter ranked the eliminated candidate as their first preference, their votes will be distributed to the next highest ranked candidate on their ballot.
- D. This process will continue until there are 2 candidates left, the candidate with the most votes wins the election.
- SECTION 3.** A. The Federal Election Commission will oversee the implementation of the ranked choice voting system.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## Item 2

# A Bill to Prohibit External Advertising in Public Spaces to Dampen the Negative Effects of Advertising on the Human Brain

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   All External Advertising shall be prohibited in public spaces.
- 2   **SECTION 2.**   A. External Advertising will be defined as the way businesses advertise their  
3                      goods and services by way of signs and displays not on the business' property  
4                      or building front.  
5                      B. Public spaces will be defined as areas that are open and accessible to the  
6                      general public, such as but not limited to city squares, parks, marketplaces,  
7                      sidewalks, streets, transport hubs, and the inside of public transportation.
- 8   **SECTION 3.**   This change will be overseen by the U.S. Department of Urban Development  
9                      and individual state's agencies.  
10                     A. Business advertisements in public spaces in forms including but not limited  
11                     to billboards, posted flyers, and signs will be prohibited unless they are  
12                     posted on the business' property or building front.  
13                     B. Advertisements posted on the business' property or building front shall  
14                     not exceed 10 feet in height or 40 feet in width.  
15                     C. Any business violating this policy will first be issued a warning and will  
16                     then be fined in accordance with the local fines associated with the  
17                     municipality's building code violations.  
18                     D. Individuals who are self-employed such as musicians/actors who are  
19                     posting flyers on building fronts/windows as an advertisement for a  
20                     performance are exempt from this policy. This exemption also includes  
21                     flyers of lost pets or people, or those advertising private services such as  
22                     but not limited to tutoring or babysitting.  
23                     E. States which do not enforce these policies will have a reduction of 10% of  
24                     allocated funds received from the U.S Department of Urban Development.
- 25   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect at the beginning of FY2024. All laws in conflict  
26                      with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.  
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## Item 3 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.*



### Item 5

## A Bill to Raise the Federal Excise Tax on Ammunition and use the Revenue to Fund Education Programs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1     **SECTION 1.**     The Federal excise tax on ammunition shall be raised from 11% to 17.5% and use  
2                     the revenue to fund education programs.

3 **SECTION 2.** These are the definitions provided:

4       A. "Education Programs" is defined as a class where participants will be provided proper  
5       education on how to handle, use, store, and transport guns

6 B. "Gun shops" is defined as a business establishment that sells small arms, such as  
7 handguns and shotguns, to individuals in an open shopping format

8 C. "Firearms Academy" shall be defined as an area designed and used for archery, skeet and  
9 trap shooting or other similar shooting sports and the shooting of rifles, shotguns and  
pistols.

10 D. "Firearm State Training" shall be defined as State provided Firearm Training ensures that  
11 gun owners are educated on the responsible practices for handling and using firearms,  
12 and storing them securely at home

13 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives will oversee  
14 enforcement of this legislation.

15 A. Education programs will be taught by a state certified or National Rifle Association  
16 certified firearms instructor and can be held at local Firearms Academy and Gun shops.  
17 With an assessment at the end with an 80% or higher to pass.

18 B. If someone already has Firearm State Training then the discount from Section 3.  
19 Subsection C. will apply to them too.

20 C. People who take the Education Programs will have a discount buying ammunition at a  
21 4.5% tax cut and will be provided identification to prove that they have taken the course.

33 D. This tax increase will not apply to active Military and local law enforcement.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2024. All laws in conflict with this legislation  
24 are hereby declared null and void.

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*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Russellville High School.*



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.

## Item 7     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.





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.