



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

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# 2023 LAST-CHANCE QUALIFIER LEGISLATION DOCKET



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## SESSION 1 LEGISLATION

## The National Interstate and Defense Bikeways Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall establish a Bikeway Trust Fund and commit \$25 billion to said fund over the  
3 next ten years to support the construction of safe and functional bicycling infrastructure  
4 (bikeways) within and between major metropolitan areas throughout the United States.

5 Territories, states, and the Federal District are directed to utilize this funding promptly and  
6 efficiently with the goal of establishing a robust nationwide interstate bikeway system  
7 within ten years of the passage of this legislation, thereby enhancing our nation's defense  
8 by insulating us against a variety of threats such as climate change and fossil fuel depletion.

9 **SECTION 2.** In order for states to gain access to this fund, they must commit to paying 10% of all  
10 expenses related to the construction and maintenance of these bikeways. Territories and  
11 the Federal District are exempt from this requirement.

12 **SECTION 3.** Funding for this legislation shall be raised through a 5% excise tax increase on the sale of  
13 gasoline and diesel for use in automobiles.

14 **SECTION 4.** This legislation, including determinations regarding where and how to construct bikeways,  
15 shall be overseen by the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with territories,  
16 states, and the Federal District. Section 3 will be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service.

17 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

## A Bill to Prevent Bank Failure

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** The amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) per depositor per
- 3 insured bank shall be increased from \$250,000 to \$1 million.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the FDIC and the Department of the Treasury.
- 5 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2023.
- 6 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## The Charitable Foundation Integrity Act

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be amended to increase the annual payout
- 3 required of private charitable foundations to maintain their designation as such from 5% to
- 4 20%.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 6 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next federal fiscal year.
- 7 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## A Bill to Ban the Sale of Gas Stoves

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** The sale and import of any non-portable stove, range, or oven powered by combustible gas  
3 (including but not limited to natural gas) is hereby prohibited.

4 **SECTION 2.** Any retailer or importer found to be in violation of this legislation shall be fined ten times  
5 the retail price of any illegally sold or imported units.

6 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Federal Trade Commission, Customs and  
7 Border Protection, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

## A Bill to Provide for the Rescue of the Great Salt Lake

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall allocate \$10 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the  
3 next decade to support restoration of Utah's Great Salt Lake to sustainable levels. The EPA  
4 is directed to work with local stakeholders to follow the recommendations of the University  
5 of Utah's Great Salt Lake Strike Team: namely, to leverage the lake's wet years; set a lake  
6 elevation range goal; invest in conservation, water monitoring and modeling; and develop a  
7 holistic water management plan.

8 **SECTION 2.** After ten years, Congress shall conduct an in-depth analysis of the situation and consider  
9 extending or increasing this funding if necessary.

10 **SECTION 3.** Funding for this legislation shall be sourced from a 1% annual tax increase on the revenue  
11 of the fossil fuel industry.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the EPA, with the exception of Section 3, which shall be  
13 overseen by the Internal Revenue Service.

14 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

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



## SESSION 2 LEGISLATION

## A Bill to Strengthen Passenger Rail Priority

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Freight trains must cede use of any and all railways to passenger trains whenever  
3 practicable in all non-emergency situations at all times anywhere within the United States  
4 and its territories.

5 **SECTION 2.** Any violation of this legislation shall be investigated and any individuals found responsible  
6 fined no less than \$10,000 per infraction. If a corporation is found to be collectively at fault,  
7 it shall be fined no less than \$100,000 per infraction. Individuals culpable for three or more  
8 violations shall be imprisoned for no fewer than three years. All proceeds from fines shall  
9 be allocated to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak).

10 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Federal Railroad Administration.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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

## A Bill to Establish the Wild Turkey as the National Bird of the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) — “a true original Native of America, . . . a Bird of  
3 Courage,” in the words of Benjamin Franklin — is hereby named the official bird of the  
4 United States of America.

5 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall establish a committee tasked with redesigning any and all federal seals or  
6 other official insignia that currently depict other less courageous birds to feature the turkey  
7 in their place. All new seals are to be presented to Congress for consideration and adoption  
8 no later than two years from the date of this legislation’s passage.

9 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

## A Resolution to Apologize to Haiti

1   **WHEREAS** The U.S. occupation of Haiti, which lasted from 1915 until 1934, resulted in the deaths,  
2                   torture, and forced servitude of thousands of Haitians, all in the shameful name of U.S.  
3                   economic interests; and

4   **WHEREAS** The impacts of U.S. actions in Haiti during this time period have continued to harm that  
5                   nation to this day; and

6   **WHEREAS** Many other U.S. policies before and since the aforementioned occupation have impacted  
7                   Haiti negatively, contributing to its status as the most impoverished nation in the Western  
8                   hemisphere; now, therefore be it

9   **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that this body apologizes sincerely and profoundly to Haiti  
10                  and the Haitian people for our nation’s selfish actions in and concerning that republic, and  
11                  for the ongoing pain and suffering those actions have caused; and be it

12   **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress shall investigate taking more substantive actions to mitigate our  
13                  nation’s past wrongs and to help Haiti and the Haitian people rise out of poverty and attain  
14                  a higher quality of life; and be it

15   **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress strongly encourages other nations whose policies have had adverse  
16                  impacts on Haiti, France in particular, to pursue similar measures of their own.

## A Resolution to Condemn Lotteries

- 1   **WHEREAS** The funding benefits resulting from lotteries are often of questionable necessity and ethical  
2                   rectitude; and
- 3   **WHEREAS** Lotteries cause disproportionate economic hardship for those who are already economically  
4                   disadvantaged, often to the benefit of the economically fortunate; and
- 5   **WHEREAS** The widespread existence of lotteries is hypocritical, as it stands in stark contrast to the  
6                   negative opinions a great portion of the US population holds toward gambling; now,  
7                   therefore be it
- 8   **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that this body condemns the existence of state-sponsored  
9                   lotteries; and be it
- 10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress strongly encourages all jurisdictions to dissolve their lotteries and  
11                   replace them with reformed, equitable tax codes as soon as practicable.

## A Resolution to Reconsider Age Restrictions on Holding Federal Office

- 1   **WHEREAS** There have been no adjustments to the age restrictions the Constitution places on federal  
2                   office since the nation’s founding; and
- 3   **WHEREAS** Our understanding of age and its impacts on human behavior have developed considerably  
4                   in that time; now, therefore be it
- 5   **RESOLVED** by the Congress here assembled that the age restrictions the Constitution places on holding  
6                   the offices of President, Senator, and Representative ought to be examined and  
7                   reconsidered; and be it
- 8   **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a constitutional amendment adjusting or removing these restrictions ought  
9                   to be entertained and ratified if appropriate; and be it
- 10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that states and other jurisdictions that place age restrictions on any political office  
11                   should follow suit.

## FINALS LEGISLATION

## A Bill to Ban Privatization of Prisons

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Bureau of Prisons shall be prohibited from contracting with, or utilizing services  
3 provided by, a private prison or any corporation engaged in the private prison industry.

4 **SECTION 2.** A private prison is considered an institution that is owned or operated by a non-  
5 government entity.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice will be responsible for overseeing the closure of all privatized  
7 prisons, the divesting of all contracts with private prison corporations, and the opening of  
8 all new prisons.

9 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Justice will have fifteen years to complete the closure of all privatized  
10 prisons from the date this bill is passed.

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



## A Bill to Instill a Maximum Cost of College Attendance

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** All public colleges will institute a ceiling on the cost of attendance of \$30,000 per year.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** Cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room, and board for both out-of-state and in-
- 4 state students.
- 5 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education will oversee the implementation of this bill.
- 6 **A.** Schools which fail to adhere to this ceiling shall not receive Federal loans or grants.
- 7 **SECTION 4.** Implementation of the bill will begin at the commencement of the 2025-26 academic year.
- 8 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

## A Bill to Reform the Census

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All questions on the Census shall be reviewed by an independent commission to determine  
3 if each question is both relevant to the mission of the census and will encourage, rather  
4 than discourage, participation in the census. Any question which does not meet both  
5 requirements shall be discarded from the Census form.

6 **SECTION 2.** The independent commission shall be compromised of individuals appointed by members  
7 of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

8 **SECTION 3.** The United States Census Bureau will receive the results of the independent commission's  
9 report and shall adjust the Census as deemed necessary. In the event that the USCB cannot  
10 adequately change the questions on the census in time, the decennial census shall be  
11 delayed one year.

12 **SECTION 4.** This shall take effect immediately upon passage.

## A Bill to Legalize the Possession and Sale of Marijuana in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** This bill shall make California Proposition 64 known as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act,  
3 national law.

4 **SECTION 2.** California Proposition 64 also known as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act shall be defined as  
5 the legislation that legalized the possession, consumption and retail sale of marijuana, and  
6 was passed on November 9th 2016. National law shall be defined as federal law as well as  
7 in each of the 50 states.

8 **SECTION 3.** The enforcement will be carried out by the Department of Justice, who will oversee  
9 coordination of implementation in individual states, as well as the resentencing, sentencing  
10 relief, release and clearing records, and reparations.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be implemented immediately.

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

## A Resolution to Encourage the United Nations to Recognize Hong Kong as An Independent City State

- 1   **WHEREAS,** Hong Kong, during its ownership by the United Kingdom, established itself as a significant  
2                   economic center; and
- 3   **WHEREAS,** after the return of Hong Kong to China on July 1, 1997 there has been a significant  
4                   reduction in human rights to the citizens of Hong Kong and foreigners in its borders, as well  
5                   as a significant reduction in Hong Kong’s economic standing; and
- 6   **WHEREAS,** the Vatican City, though on Italian soil, is recognized as an independent city state by Italy  
7                   and the world community; and
- 8   **WHEREAS,** China will not recognize Hong Kong as an independent city state without overwhelming  
9                   influence from the world community; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** By the Congress here assembled that the United States encourage the United Nations and  
11                   its members to recognize Hong Kong as an independent city state.