



ACTAA Spring 2022 Legislative Docket

1. A Bill to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting for Elections Introduced by Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts
2. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Allow 16-Year-Olds and 17-Year-Olds That Pay Taxes To Vote Introduced by Gravette High School
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5. A Bill to Increase Cooperative Business Ownership by Giving Workers Opportunities to Purchase their Workplaces Introduced by Bentonville High School
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9. A Resolution to Increase Quality of Sex and Pregnancy Education in Public Schools across the United States Introduced by Don Tyson School of Innovation
10. A Bill Recognizing Mental Health in All Public Schools Introduced by Gravette High School
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14. A Resolution to Have a Mental Health Counselor in every school district Introduced by North Little Rock High School
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19. A Bill to Allow People Convicted Felons to Vote Introduced by Episcopal Collegiate School
20. A Bill to Address the Housing Crisis Introduced by Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts
21. A Bill to Require States to Winterize their Electrical Grids Introduced by Don Tyson School of Innovation
22. A Bill to Enforce Red-light Cameras in Major Intersections Introduced by North Little Rock High School
23. A Bill Recognizing One Semester of Band Classes to Count as a Physical Education Credit in Public Secondary Schools Introduced by Gravette High School
24. A Bill to Increase the Federal Minimum Wage Introduced by Bentonville High School
25. A Bill to Standardize Cellphone Ports and Chargers as a Industry Standard within the United States Introduced by Don Tyson School of Innovation
26. A Bill to Extend Minimum Wage to Prisoners Introduced by Jonesboro High School



1. A Bill to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting for Elections

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. 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 5. This legislation will go into January 1st, 2024

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are now declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

2. A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Allow 16-Year-Olds and 17-Year-Olds That Pay Taxes To Vote

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE XXVIII

- SECTION 1: The following sections shall amend amendment XXVI of the United States Constitution which currently reads, “the right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.”
- SECTION 2: The current amendment shall be changed to, “the right of citizens of the United States, who are sixteen years of age or older and pay taxes shall be able to vote and it should not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.”
- SECTION 3: The right to vote shall be given to 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds that pay any state, federal, or county tax on their pay stubs.
- SECTION 4: Proof of tax deductions shall be provided upon registering to vote and is subject to further investigation.
- SECTION 5: At the age of 18 verification of taxes will no longer be enforced upon registering to vote.
- SECTION 6: All high schools in the United States must offer civics and economics classes to freshmen and sophomores.
- SECTION 7: Everyone 16 and 17 years of age wishing to vote must have taken at least one civics and economics class or they must pass a standardized citizenship test.
- SECTION 8: The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Gravette High School



5. A Bill to Increase Cooperative Business Ownership by Giving Workers Opportunities to Purchase their Workplaces

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1. All Citizens of the United States shall maintain a right of first refusal for the collective purchase of the businesses and/or business locations at which they are employed in the instances specified in subsections 1A and 1B. The sale, dissolution, or closure of a company. The Right to buy individual plants or locations being sold or closed.
- SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation, right of first refusal will be defined as workers' right to enter a business transaction with their employer, according to specified terms, before the employer is entitled to enter into that transaction with a third party.
- SECTION 3. This legislation will be overseen and enforced by a newly created Bureau of Cooperative Worker Acquisitions under the Department of Commerce.
- SECTION 4. Funding for the creation and staffing of this bureau will come from a 1% increase of federal corporate tax. Funding will cap at \$10 billion for the bureaus first year, with the surplus being allocated to decreasing the federal deficit.
- SECTION 5. Individuals or companies in violation of this legislature shall be subject to a fine of at least \$50,000 with subsequent fines doubling.
- SECTION 6. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025. This legislation does not apply to dealings started before June 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bentonville High School.



8. A Bill to Reduce the Bias of Senator and Members of Congress Caused by Their Possession of Stocks, Shares, and Positions Within Companies and Organizations

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION I. Members of the State Senate and House of Representatives shall no longer be allowed to purchase stocks or shares, possess any form of position in any company which will be awarded government private contracts.

SECTION II. Citizens running for such positions must give up such stocks, shares, and positions upon estimate of office. They may sell these stocks, shares and place an extended leave of absence from their positions, that is equal to their terms.

SECTION III. Members who violate the rules of this legislation would be fined in the amount of their entire Congressional salary similar to the “Ban Congressional Stock Trading Act” enforcement.

SECTION IV. This legislation will take effect imminently

SECTION V. All laws and legislation in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null in void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sylvan Hills High School

20. A Bill to Address the Housing Crisis

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1. A. The monthly rent of all United States apartments shall not exceed \$0.75 per square foot.
B. No state, city, or municipality shall require “Single-Family Zoning.”
C. The rent of all United States publicly owned housing shall not exceed \$0.20 per square ft monthly.
D. The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall construct new public housing using the funds generated through Section 3 Subsection A.
E. Anyone without another residence shall be able to rent these homes.

- SECTION 2. “Single-Family Zoning” shall be defined as a policy that restricts development in an area to single-family homes.
“Public Housing” shall be defined as housing owned and rented by the United States government or any state government.
“Monthly rent” shall be defined as the average amount paid per month over the course of a lease.
“Apartment” shall be defined as any space rented for the purpose of habitation.

- SECTION 3. The Department of Housing and Urban Development shall oversee the implementation of this bill.
A. The grants in subsection D will be funded by a 5% property tax on home values exceeding \$100,000.
B. Any landlord in violation of section A shall be fined 12 times the rent charged.

- SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect at the start of Fiscal Year 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.



21. A Bill to Require States to Winterize their Electrical Grids

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Congress shall require that state governments take the necessary precautions to adequately prepare and reinforce their electrical grids for the coming extreme winter weather due to climate change.

SECTION 2. “Electrical grid” is defined as an interconnected systems by which all forms of electricity is delivered from producers to consumers.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy (DOE) will be allocated a renewable grant of 100 million from the United States federal budget for four years to oversee the implementation and enforcement of this bill. Funding will be used for securing critical electrical grid infrastructure, insulating of critical transfers, and prevention of electrical power loss from source to customer/consumer during winter months.

A. Electrical grids shall be assessed yearly as of the end of Fiscal Year 2023 on October 1st 2023 according to standards set by the DOE. States who do not meet these established standards may be subject to fines up to \$500,000 dollars for every year of noncompliance.

B. Standards set by the DOE may vary from state to state depending on the severity of the weather and the current condition of electrical infrastructure in each individual state.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Don Tyson School of Innovation

25. A Bill to Standardize Cellphone Ports and Chargers as a Industry Standard within the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1. Due to the rapid and continual growth of the cellphone market within the United States over the last 20 years, a diversity of differing charging methods have been developed by manufacturers which makes effective charging difficult and promotes differing patents for charging from manufactures but creates problems for consumers.
- SECTION 2. An industry standard of the USB-C charger has been embraced by the European Union as the charger of choice for all popular electronic devices. If this legislation were to be adopted all cellphone manufacturers would have one year from passage to make all new models and charging conform to the USB-C charging system.
- SECTION 3. If a cellphone manufacturer or company refuses to comply with these demands, then they must provide a USB-C port adapter with all phones free of charge upon request to the owner of the device. These exceptions will only be allowed for the one year adoption period upon passage of this bill.
- SECTION 4. Failure to comply with the standardization to USB-C charging ports and chargers will result in a one time \$200 million dollar fine and an ongoing fine of 15% of all sales of any device that does not comply with USB-C charging requirements after the one year adoption period upon passage of this bill.
- SECTION 5. This bill shall be overseen and enforced by the United States Department of Commerce and shall go into effect on January 1, 2024.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Don Tyson School of Innovation



26. A Bill to Extend Minimum Wage to Prisoners

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Prisoners will be required to either be paid at least minimum wage or no longer work. This will extend to private and public prisons.

SECTION 2. Minimum wage will be defined by the state the prison is located in. Work includes anything that would receive a wage outside of prison.

SECTION 3. A. The Bureau of Prisons will oversee the enactment of this bill. Any prison found to not uphold it will be liable to be shut down and have its prisoners relocated.

B. The Bureau of Prisons budget will be increased by 50% to help cover the cost of providing minimum wage for prisoners.

C. The manner of wage distribution will be determined by each state.

SECTION 4. This law will go into effect on January 1st, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jonesboro High School

10. A Bill Recognizing Mental Health in All Public Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All K-12 teachers and administrators will be required to attend sixty-five hours of suicide prevention training over the course of two years. There shall be four counselors per school population of four hundred, any additional students will require more counselors, one per fifty students added.

All students in public school will be required to learn about mental health during health class.

- A. This unit will consist of teaching of how to cope with mental health problems, teaching students how to recognize signs of mental illnesses in their peers, and teaching of how to talk about feelings.
- B. This unit will be anywhere from two to four weeks, depending on the amount of information being retained. If in a health class all students combined average eighty percent during this unit, the unit may only be two weeks, otherwise, this unit will be four weeks.

Teachers will “normalize” talking about mental health with the students. All public schools will hang posters with the lifeline’s phone number. All teachers will be required to intervene if they believe a student may be suffering from a mental illness. Schools will recognize an absence due to therapy appointments, mental hospital visits, and etcetera as an excused absence.

Parental consent will not have to be provided for any type of therapy within a public school district. Students, teachers, and administrators will be provided six mental health days per semester or three mental health days per quarter.

SECTION 2. “Mental health fund” shall be defined as, “the money taken from Arkansas educator’s federal income tax, in a fund to help our youth with their mental health problems using all the ways listed in the prior sections of this legislation.” “The Lifeline” shall be defined as the number 1-800-273-8255 or 988. “Normalize” shall be defined as, “being normal to talk about or not out of the ordinary” “School population” should be defined as “the number of students per school building.” “Intervene” shall be defined as, “talking to the student about their mental health”.

SECTION 3. The United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Health will oversee this legislation. The funding for this piece of legislation is going to be from all Arkansas educators' federal income tax.

- A. Any school in violation of this legislation will face a loss of five percent of funding for athletics for every month that they’re in violation.
- B. Educator’s federal income tax will be reallocated into a designated mental health fund.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024, or FY 2024.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Gravette High School

12. A Bill to Ban Members of Hate Groups From Joining Law Enforcement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1. Any member of a formally recognized extremist group becoming employed by law enforcement, whether that be local or federal, is henceforth guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.
Any employer found guilty of hiring a member of an extremist group with knowledge of that affiliation will henceforth be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.
- SECTION 2. A hate group (or extremist group) is a social organization that both promotes and employs violence against others because of their race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender, or any other designated group in society.
As defined by the Bureau of Justice, law enforcement is a term used to refer to “the agencies and employees responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety.” This ranges from local police departments to federal organizations such as the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- SECTION 3. This motion will be overseen and enforced by the United States Department of Homeland Security.
Those still currently affiliated with hate groups in law enforcement positions will be notified immediately of their dismissal from them, and given sufficient time to modify career paths.
- SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void



13. A Bill to Provide High School Students in Arkansas With Excused Personal Leave

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Arkansas Department of Education will hereby provide all students in Arkansas with 5 school days of excused personal leave.

SECTION 2. Excused personal leave includes any reason a student may be absent from school. This is applied after informing the school office within 5 school days of the absence.

A. The school office must be informed by a guardian if the student is below the age of 16. Otherwise, the student may inform the office.

B. The student will not receive a punishment from the school for taking an excused personal leave (e.g. not considered absent in a class, instead excused, so it will not apply to punishments like mandatory finals).

SECTION 3. The Arkansas Department of Education Division of Public School Accountability will oversee the enforcement of the bill.

The Division of Public School Accountability will oversee Arkansas school districts and enforce the policy in their handbook

The school offices' will have the responsibility to account and record the excused personal leave.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bentonville High School.



17. A Bill to Enforce a Federal Ban on Kratom to Prevent Health Casualties

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to use *Mitragyna speciosa*, also known as Kratom, and they have yet to approve the use of this plant in any products.
- SECTION 2. The FDA is concerned about aspects of Kratom, which affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine, appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence, and has been proven to relate to many more serious health issues.
- SECTION 3. The sale, exchange, or growing of kratom is hereby prohibited in the United States. Kratom will no longer be imported from any country. Products containing kratom are no longer to be sold publicly, privately, or at all. All products currently for sale or created will be disposed of.
- A. Products are defined as an article or substance that is manufactured or refined for sale.
 - B. The Drug Enforcement Agency shall enforce this legislation, and the Federal Drug Administration shall determine the ways each product is to be disposed of.
- SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2024. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Little Rock Central High School.