

HARVARD

Debate Council



HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT
Middle School Division

Congressional Debate

2024 Middle School

Legislative Docket

Visit congressionaldebate.org/harvard-tournament/general-information for detailed and late breaking information before and during the tournament.

Items for this docket include bills and resolutions submitted by middle schools (Prelim items 1-5), supplemented by items hand-selected from the high school docket and NSDA monthly dockets. These were voted on by competitors prior to release of the docket.

NOTE: If there are 36 or fewer contestants, instead of holding a semifinal round, all contestants will participate in a fourth preliminary round, but will debate the three items designated for semifinals.

Please note rule §1.3.5.: In the Middle School division, an individual contestant may only deliver up to one authorship speech per round.

Competitive Integrity

Adapted from the *Barkley Forum for High Schools* at Emory University (2022).

Our community has been reckoning with concerns of competitive integrity, particularly in terms of efforts to communicate outside the set schedule and environment (in-person or virtual space) of tournaments, where not all students have the ability or accessibility to be part of conversations. When such communication is unmoderated by adults outside a tournament, but directly related to that tournament, it can cause problems. Competitors in the past have reported feeling undue pressure and even harassment; this also extends competitive dynamics into personal lives of students outside the timeframe and context of a tournament. Both of these are unsound from a social-emotional learning (SEL) standpoint, especially as educators discuss how SEL and mental health concerns have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Equity and fairness must be hallmarks of interscholastic competition. ***While we do not prohibit outside communication, we ask teams to have*** constructive conversations about how outside-of-tournament communication pertaining to tournament dynamics, such as lobbying for votes on legislative dockets, agenda order, speech recognition, presiding officer nominations, etc., is inadvertently fostering anxiety in peers for lack of inclusion. A number of schools already have pledged to not engage in this type of communication.

We have not established a tournament-sanctioned time and place to foster such conversations between contestants from different schools, because registration is fluid over the next several weeks (meaning we could not provide this equitably), and we do not wish increase the burden of time and pressure beyond the set schedule of the tournament, as well as burden to schools of provide supervising adults to moderate such discussions; this is in acknowledgement that not all schools and students have the privilege of time and resources to participate in that extended capacity.

We encourage feedback from participants – coaches, contestants, judges, and observers – on any way in which we can provide the best possible educational and competitive experience.

NOTE New Rule ([within §1.10.2](#)):

Recesses are considered a brief pause in a round, equivalent to *prep time* in other debate events, and not appropriate for receiving coaching.

2024 Harvard MIDDLE SCHOOL Congressional Debate Legislative Docket

Code	Title	Category	Session	Page
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RC	A Bill to Ban Internet Gambling to Help Diminish Compulsive Gambling	Commerce	Prelims	3
DK	A Resolution to Help the Ethiopian People	Foreign Relations and Aid	Prelims	4
DK	A Bill to Combat Crime and Put an End to Gun Violence	Justice	Prelims	5
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	A Bill to Standardize Party Nomination Procedures	Elections/Government Reform	Prelims	7
	A Bill to Ban Hydraulic Fracturing	Energy/Envir/Scien Devel	Prelims	8
	A Bill to Fund the Replacement of Intersections with Roundabouts	Commerce	Prelims	9
	A Bill to Create Universal Pre-K to Foster Equitable Education	Education and Health Care	Semi/Rd4	10
	A Bill to Fund High-Speed Rail Development	Energy/Envir/Scien Devel	Semi/Rd4	11
	A Bill to Prohibit Any Factories from Being Built Near Areas of Poor Water Quality	Energy/Envir/Scien Devel	Semi/Rd4	12
	A Bill to Abolish the Penny	Commerce	Finals	13
	A Bill to Aid the Global Water Crisis	Energy/Envir/Scien Devel	Finals	14
	A Bill to Regulate College Tuition Prices	Education and Health Care	Finals	15

A BILL TO REVAMP RURAL COMMUNITIES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** All current federal programs focused on the economic and/or infrastructure development of rural communities will fall under the jurisdiction of a new federal organization called the Rural Development Administration (RDA). Rural areas shall be exempt from Federal Grant Match Requirements.
- SECTION 2.** A rural community is defined as a county that includes some combination of open countryside, towns with fewer than 2,500 residents, and urban areas with less than 50,000 residents who are not connected to a larger labor market. Infrastructure is defined as the services and systems necessary for a society to function including but not limited to education, healthcare, internet access, and climate protection.
- SECTION 3.** the newly created Rural Development Administration will fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture
- A. All of the funding for current programs focused on rural areas will be reallocated to the RDA.
 - B. The RDA will determine how to best reorganize and consolidate the current programs now under its jurisdiction.
 - C. The RDA will also create a new board to represent rural communities in congress and address inequities faced by rural communities and minorities within them.
- SECTION 4.** The transitions detailed in this legislation will start immediately upon passage. All changes will be completed by FY 2029.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted

A Bill to Implement Minecraft Education in Schools to Help Bolster School's Education Curriculum

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Minecraft Education will now be implemented in public school systems to
2 help boost the education process.

3 **SECTION 2.** School system shall be defined as the way the curriculum in the education
4 system today is structured. Minecraft Education is the game that Mojang
5 Studios and TeacherGaming LLC co-created that focuses on learning.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education is to oversee the implementation of this bill
7 and will be allocated an additional \$4 billion in the next fiscal year.

8 A. \$4 billion will be used to fund the technology and equipment required
9 to provide the needed tools for schools.

10 B. Schools can receive funding by applying for grants to be approved by
11 the Department of Education.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2025.

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Ban Internet Gambling to Help Diminish Compulsive Gambling

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Internet Gambling is now banned in the United States
- 2 A. This bill supplements the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act
- 3 (UIGEA) and the Federal Wire Act
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Internet gambling shall be defined as the means to place a bet or wager by
- 5 any means which involves the use, at least in part, of the Internet.
- 6 Compulsive gambling shall be defined as a persistent inclination towards
- 7 putting something in value at stake and governed by the chance of
- 8 uncertainty.
- 9 A. Internet gambling includes but is not limited to:
- 10 a. online betting on teams
- 11 b. in-game lootboxes
- 12 c. Online casinos
- 13 d. Online slot machines
- 14 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Safety (HHS) will oversee the
- 15 implementation of this legislation.
- 16 A. Companies using internet-gambling will be fined \$10,000 fine for each
- 17 day they have internet-gambling implemented after this legislation
- 18 takes effect.
- 19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect 30 days after passage.
- 20 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Resolution to Help the Ethiopian People

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Conflict and climate change have devastated Ethiopia, leaving millions
2 displaced with no food or shelter; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** The US should be fully committed to responding to humanitarian crises
4 around the world; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** This is most especially true when the US has the ability to provide aid and
6 relieve; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** Sending a message of support and providing funding would help the
8 millions displaced and/or starving in Ethiopia; now, therefore, be it
- 9 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled stands with the people of Ethiopia
10 and, be it
- 11 **FUTHER RESOLVED,** This Congress shall create a \$10 billion fund to provide
12 humanitarian aid to Ethiopia; and, be it
- 13 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the US will partner with non-governmental organizations like
14 the International Rescue Committee and the Red Cross.

A Bill to Combat Crime and Put an End to Gun Violence

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall take substantial measures to
3 combat crime and put an end to gun violence

4 **SECTION 3.** These measures shall include:

5 A. A ban on assault rifle sales and automatic weapons to civilians

6 B. Provide \$100 billion toward mental health services in areas impacted
7 by gun violence and crime

8 C. Dedicate \$50 billion toward school safety to prevent school shootings

9 **SECTION 4.** Funding and enforcement are as follows:

10 A. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice
11 will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this bill.

12 B. \$300 billion shall be appropriate via normal means in the FY 2025

13 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this
14 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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A Bill to Ban Private Prisons to Prioritize Rehabilitation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The use of private prisons shall now be prohibited. Neither
2 the federal government nor any state shall house prisoners in a private
3 prison. Any state noncompliant with this legislation will lose 50% of the
4 federal funding given to their state police departments. Funding will
5 resume should a state become compliant.

6 **SECTION 2.** A private prison is defined as any facility used to house
7 prisoners that is owned by a private corporation. A prisoner is defined as
8 anyone being detained as part of a conviction or while awaiting trial.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of
10 Homeland Security (DHS) shall be responsible for enforcing this legislation.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2027.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Standardize Party Nomination Procedures

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All party contests for presidential nominations conducted by
2 a party with a registered voter population of 500,000 or more shall be
3 decided through primary elections occurring in all 50 states, territories, and
4 federal districts, in which all registered voters may participate, which shall
5 all occur on the first Tuesday of the month of March in any presidential
6 election year

7 **SECTION 2.** Primary election will be defined as defined as an election for
8 party nomination decided through the use of private secret ballots at
9 designated polling locations, and or through the use of absentee ballots

10 **SECTION 3.** Delegates for nomination shall be assigned to candidates
11 proportional to the percent of the nation-wide popular vote received by
12 the candidate should that candidate receive more than 3% of the vote, and
13 delegates awarded shall be adjustable based on the percentage won by a
14 candidate within a 1% or less margin.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Federal Election Commission shall oversee the
16 implementation and enforcement of this legislation

SECTION 5. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025 and shall
 affect all presidential elections thereafter. All laws in conflict with this
 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Ban to Hydraulic Fracturing

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Fracking shall be prohibited by federal agencies by ending
3 permits for the expansion of fracking or fracked oil and natural gas
4 infrastructure, including infrastructure intended to extract, transport, or
5 burn natural gas or oil across all 50 states and U.S. territories.

6 **SECTION 2.** Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, shall be defined as a
7 process that provides access to reservoirs of natural gas and petroleum
8 by opening rocks deep underground. U.S territories shall be defined as
9 administrative districts overseen by the Federal government of the
10 United States without national status.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of
12 Energy shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Fund the Replacement of Intersections with Roundabouts

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall apportion an additional \$10 billion a year for each of the next 10 years to
3 the Department of Transportation to support the replacement of traffic intersections
4 with roundabouts.

5 **SECTION 2.** A traffic intersection is defined as a place where two or more roads meet, requiring at
6 least one approaching lane of traffic to stop, by means of either a stop sign or a traffic
7 light. A roundabout is defined as a place where two or more roads meet and are directed
8 into a circular roadway to travel counterclockwise around a center island without the use
9 of traffic lights or stop signs.

10 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Transportation, which is
11 additionally directed to establish a fair and speedy process by which sub-federal agencies
12 may apply for and be granted these funds.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

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

A Bill to Create Universal Pre-K to Ensure Equity in Education

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A universal prekindergarten education shall be established for all
3 American children through the following provisions.

4 A. School districts shall create permanent prekindergarten programs that
5 are accessible to all families within their district.

6 B. The Department of Education shall allocate funds for the creation of
7 these programs, the construction of new buildings and the hiring of Pre-K
8 teachers.

9 C. Public schools and childcare centers with existing Pre-K programs may
10 have these programs subsidized for school years after this bill's
11 implementation.

12 **SECTION 2.** The following definitions apply:

13 A. "Prekindergarten" programs are defined as educational programs for
14 children aged 3-5, operating during all normal school hours on normal
15 school days.

16 a. These programs shall not exceed a child to faculty ratio of 10:1.

17 b. These programs shall compensate all employees to match or
18 exceed median public school teacher salary in that district.

19 B. "Universal" will be defined as being reasonably accessible to all families in
20 a school district

21 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Education shall be tasked with the
22 enforcement of this legislation.

23 A. All funding required will be apportioned from the Education
24 Department Budget.

25 B. Any district not in compliance with this legislation will lose federal
26 funding as overseen by the Department of Education.

27 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this
28 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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A Bill to Fund High-Speed Rail Development

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Transportation shall allocate \$100 billion of funding for
2 the development and implementation of high-speed rail systems across the
3 United States.

4 **SECTION 2.** A High-Speed Rail System is defined as a rail network capable of sustained
5 speeds exceeding 150 miles per hour.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation shall work in collaboration with state
7 and local authorities to identify and prioritize high-speed rail corridors
8 based on factors such as population density, transportation demand, and
9 potential economic impact.

10 A. Funding will come from the Department of Defense budget.

11 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall go into effect immediately upon passage.

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

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A Bill to Prohibit Any Factories from Being Built Near Areas of Poor Water Quality

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government will prohibit any factories from
2 being constructed and built near areas experiencing poor water conditions.
3 Numerous factories are located in Flint, Michigan. However, many of these
4 factories dump their waste into the city's local water source, which citizens
5 use to drink, bathe, shower, and clean. The state of Michigan has a
6 widespread water crisis, similar to the conditions of Flint, in which its water
7 is of poor quality. Gotion Inc., a battery-producing company, is aiming to
8 build a battery plant in Green Charter Township.
- 9 **SECTION 2.** The state of Michigan, specifically Flint, is known for its poor water quality
10 due to many factories being built in the area. These water conditions can
11 expose citizens to E. coli, a bacteria that leads to abdominal pain and
12 nausea, lead exposure, and effects on reproductive health.
- 13 **SECTION 3.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency as well as The
14 Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will
15 enforce these rules and make sure they are followed. The two agencies will
16 be regulating the water quality of areas such as Flint, Michigan, and
17 monitoring to protect areas from harmful factories. Check-ins will be made
18 to ensure that the water quality of these areas is usable and won't cause
19 any harm to its users.
- 20 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on June 1st, 2024. All laws in conflict with
21 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Abolish the Penny

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A. The penny shall no longer be accepted as legal tender in the United
3 States.

4 B. All U.S. commercial banks shall continue to accept pennies either for
5 deposit or exchange for another legal tender.

6 **SECTION 2.** A penny shall be defined as a form of U.S. currency worth 1 cent or 1/100
7 of a U.S. Dollar.

8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Treasury shall implement this legislation.

9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate

A Bill to Aid the Global Water Crisis

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States government shall provide aid to combat the Global Water Crisis.

A. A total of \$100 billion shall be allocated to distribution to NGOs that specialize in solving or preventing water scarcity.

B. An additional \$50 billion shall be allocated to the Peace Corps for water scarcity related tasks and operations.

C. An additional \$50 billion will be allocated to US states with or at risk of water scarcity, to be evenly distributed.

D. Funding will be distributed evenly across 5 years, ending in FY 2028.

SECTION 2. A. Water scarcity shall be defined as the lack of drinkable water in a given area, whether due to a lack of water itself, a lack of ways to transport that water, or other factors.

B. The “Global Water Crisis” shall be defined as the crisis that impacts multiple countries via water scarcity.

C. A state that is at risk of or has water scarcity is defined as a state that is either (a) at risk of facing water scarcity or (b) is facing water scarcity currently.

SECTION 3. Funding and enforcement are as follows:

A. \$200 billion dollars shall be allocated to the Department of State and the Environmental Protection Agency through normal means in the FY 2025 budget.

B. The Environmental Protection Agency shall be tasked with enforcing the distribution of funds.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on 1 October 2024.. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate.

A Bill to Regulate College Tuition Prices

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All state and private colleges or universities will follow a federal-
3 mandated maximum tuition rate of \$25,000 per year starting the year of
4 implementation. Tuition rates will increase annually at the rate of
5 inflation or a maximum of 2.5% per year. Any colleges or universities that
6 do not follow this mandated pricing will be subject to removal of their tax
7 exempt status.

8 **SECTION 2.** A. Tuition is defined as the sum of money charged for teaching and
9 instruction by a school, college or university.

10 B. College is defined as an education institution or establishment that
11 provides higher education. This includes 2-year vocation schols, 4-year
12 public schools, and 4-year private schools

13 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this
14 bill. The Internal Revenue Service will oversee penalty enforcement.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict
16 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate.