

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2024 Mardi Gras

Legislation Docket

Welcome to Mardi Gras 2024! Enclosed, please find the following legislation.

- ◇ **A Bill to Abolish Standardized Testing** (Sen. Moktar, Newton South HS)
- ◇ **A Bill to Prohibit the Use of Pesticides** (Sen. Das, Natick HS)
- ◇ **A Bill to Discourage School Strikes by Reducing Funds to Striking Schools** (Sen. DeMeo, Catholic Memorial School)
- ◇ **A Bill to Relieve Student Loan Debt** (Sen. Chopra, Shrewsbury HS)
- ◇ **SUPER SESSION: A Bill to Restrict Prescription Drug Advertising** (MSDL)

Congratulations to all who qualified for the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Congressional Debate!

We currently have 25 students fully qualified to the State Championship Tournament with two or more bids! There are 18 of you “on the bubble” with a single bid. We could have one of the largest Congress entries ever if this trend holds. Keep on putting in the work and submitting legislation!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the tournament.

Happy prepping!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

Festive Memes for Mardi Gras

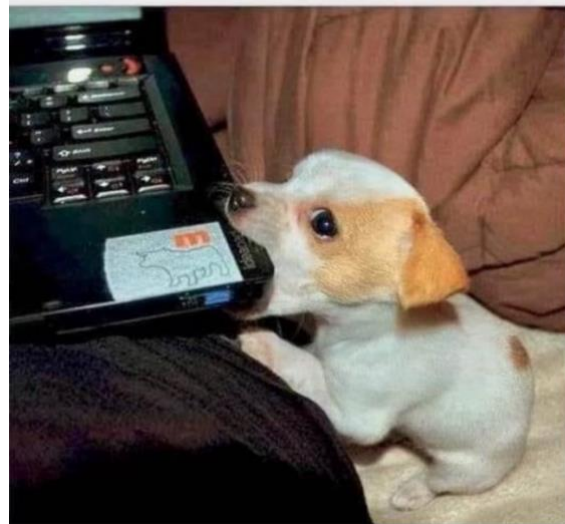
Nice try laundry, I'm still going to nap



babe what's wrong you've barely touched any of your triceramisu



When you're running low on space but your pup gives your computer a megabyte



A Bill to Abolish Standardized Testing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** A. The use of state and/or federal mandated standardized testing as a
2 means of influencing school funding shall be abolished in all public schools
3 across the United States.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. “Standardized testing” refers to any form of mandated test that is
5 administered and scored in a consistent manner across all test takers and
6 influences school funding. This includes, but is not limited to, multiple-
7 choice exams, true or false questions, short-answer tests, and essays that
8 are graded based on a standardized rubric.

9 **SECTION 4.** A. This bill shall take effect one academic year after its passage and
10 approval.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Melody Moktar of Newton South High School

A Bill to Prohibit the Use of Pesticides

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** All commercial farms are hereby prohibited from using
2 pesticides for commercial products. Any farm found in noncompliance with
3 this legislation will have its agricultural subsidies removed and reallocated
4 to other farms. 10 billion dollars shall be allocated for research and
5 development of alternative methods for protecting crops.
- 6 **SECTION 2.** Pesticides shall be defined as substances used to eliminate
7 pests that damage crops. Agricultural subsidies shall be defined as funding
8 given to farms by the Department of Agriculture.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The Environmental Protection Agency shall be responsible
10 for inspecting farms for compliance. The United States Department of
11 Agriculture (USDA) shall be responsible for the reallocation of agricultural
12 subsidies, and for the allocation of money for research and development.
- 13 **SECTION 4.** This legislature will take effect on January 1, 2028
- 14 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared
null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sanjhbati Das

A Bill to Discourage School Strikes by Reducing Funds to Striking Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Federal government will withdraw funding from school districts, any of whose schools are closed for one or multiple days due to a teachers' strike.

SECTION 2. The amount of funding withdrawn shall be proportional to the number of days on which the school is closed.

SECTION 5. The funding removed from schools will be reduced in accordance with the number of students who receive financial aid for the lunch programs.

SECTION 6. A school district can regain these funds by adding days to the end of their school year, to replace the days missed by the strikes.

SECTION 7. The Department of Labor shall oversee the execution of this bill, including the amounts of the penalties and any other circumstances particular to the situation in the affected school district , in consultation with the Department of Education.

SECTION 8. This legislation will take effect on July 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rudolph DeMeo, Catholic Memorial.

A Bill to Relieve Student Loan Debt

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Student loan borrowers who have taken out loans within the past 25 years shall be relieved of \$25,000 of debt.

SECTION 2. Student loans are defined as money borrowed from the federal government to pay for college education.

SECTION 3. The US Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Suner Chopra, Shrewsbury High School.

A Bill to Restrict Prescription Drug Advertising

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Federal Communications Commission shall have the authority to
3 proscribe the advertisement of prescription pharmaceuticals on the public
4 airwaves, and to prevent licensed broadcasters from accepting sponsorship
5 in the name of prescription pharmaceuticals. The Commission shall further
6 have the authority to suspend or revoke the broadcasting license of an
7 operator not in compliance with this section.

8 **SECTION 2.** "Prescription pharmaceuticals" shall include any substance regulated by the
9 Food and Drug Administration whose distribution is limited to individuals
10 with a valid prescription from a physician.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission shall be responsible for enforcing
12 this legislation.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League. This legislation is for educational and competitive purposes only and does not necessarily constitute the endorsement of a policy proposition by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.