

Northern Lights District Congressional Debate Qualifier



Legislation Packet
2024

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A Bill to Prohibit the Manufacture, Sale, Transfer, and Possession of Assault Weapons in the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This Act will be cited as the “Assault Weapon Ban Act of 2024.” It will prohibit the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of assault weapons and large-capacity magazines in the United States.

SECTION 2. Assault weapons include semi-automatic rifles, pistols, and shotguns with specific features such as detachable magazines, pistol grips, bump stocks, folding/telescoping stocks, and flash suppressors or grenade launchers. This includes large-capacity ammunition-feeding devices with a magazine that holds more than 10 rounds.

SECTION 3. The ATF will be the government agency responsible for implementation and enforcement. A voluntary buy-back program will be managed by the U.S. military, which will also oversee the recycling or repurposing of surrendered weapons. Funding for the buy-back program, totaling \$750 million, will come from the Department of Defense.

A. Law enforcement officers and military personnel are exempt.

B. Antique firearms dealers are exempt if they meet specific criteria.

C. Violators of the ban face fines of up to \$250,000 or up to 10 years in prison.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Pequot Lakes High School

A Bill to Prohibit Persons Under the Age of 18 from Using Tanning Beds to Promote Informed Decision Making

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Any individual under the age of 18 is prohibited from using any tanning equipment within a tanning facility.

SECTION 2. Tanning equipment shall be defined as apparatuses used to darken the skin through bright ultraviolet lights.

A. An individual is defined as a human being

B. A Tanning facility is defined as a location, place, area, structure, or business that provides individuals access to tanning equipment regardless of whether a fee is charged to access the tanning equipment.

SECTION 3. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide the necessary funding, and oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

A. If a tanning facility is found providing tanning beds to an individual under the age of 18, they will be fined \$1,000 per offense.

B. All money collected from fines will be given to the National Cancer Institute to further research cures for skin cancer.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School

A Bill to Mandate Paid Parental Leave

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Employers are hereby mandated to provide 50% or more of the employee's monthly earnings for a minimum of three months following the birth of the child the employee will have guardianship rights and custody of.
- SECTION 2.** If an employee is paid by commission the employer must provide 50% of their average monthly earnings over the last fiscal year. This parental leave is applicable to any persons who meet the set requirements, having guardianship and custody of the child, regardless of gender.
- SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Labor will be responsible for implementation and enforcement of this legislation.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bemidji High School

A Bill to Reinstate the Shared Responsibility Payment to the Affordable Care Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The Shared Responsibility Payment shall be reinstated to the Affordable Care Act, thus bringing back a penalty to those who do not have Health Insurance in the United States.
- SECTION 2.** This bill will help to further decrease the costs of Health Care within the U.S. and lessen the chances of U.S. Citizens going bankrupt after receiving Health Care in the U.S.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) & The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will oversee the implementation of this bill along with The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which will collect the payments from U.S. citizens who remain uninsured.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take 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 St. Francis High School

Banning Book Banning Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The practice of book banning and challenging is largely harmful to communities, and it limits individuals' right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

SECTION 2. A. "Book Banning" is defined as the practice of prohibiting or restricting the reading of certain books by the general public or by members of a local community or religious group (Britannica).

B. "Book Challenging" is defined as an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group (ALA).

C. "Infraction" is defined as a violation or infringement of a law or agreement (Oxford).

SECTION 3. The Department of the Interior will work in tandem with State and Local governments and the American Library Association to enforce this bill upon passage. The Department of Education will oversee all school library implementation.

A. Penalty for individuals or organizations attempting to challenge or ban books will be a fine of \$1,000 per infraction that will be paid to the affected library.

a. In the absence of a public library, the fine will be paid to the affected school district (supported by the Department of Education where necessary).

B. After the passage of this bill, a registry of historically banned and challenged books will be established and updated with new bans and challenges as they occur. This registry will be overseen by the American Library Association with support from the Department of the Interior.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect 2 years after the passing of this bill. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by St. Michael-Albertville High School

A Bill to Establish a State-Owned Bank of Minnesota

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The State of Minnesota will hereby establish a state-owned bank, known as the Minnesota State Bank, to provide economic opportunity to the people of Minnesota.

SECTION 2. The Minnesota State Bank will be defined as a bank owned and controlled by the State of Minnesota with the same abilities as a financial institution (for example, issuing loans, managing savings accounts, etc.), and will follow the model of the Bank of North Dakota in terms of operation.

SECTION 3. The Department of Commerce will be responsible for the management of the Minnesota State Bank. All subsequent budget requests will be made and managed through the Department of Commerce, as well as requests for funds required for construction. The Department of Commerce will request the money required for construction in its usual budgetary request.

A. The Department of Commerce will be responsible for determining a Board of Directors, with a minimum of three and a maximum of five. The selected group will be designated within six months of this legislation's passing and will be officially put into office when the one-year planning period is finished.

B. Every year after passing, the Department of Commerce will issue a report documenting the operating expenses, estimated worth of the loan portfolio, operating costs, executive positions salaries, and how banking activities have affected the state of Minnesota.

C. The Department of Commerce will have one-year following to create a plan of action as well as a request for initial funding, which will not be in excess of fifteen billion dollars, including construction costs. They will then have one year to implement the first steps of this plan

remotely before moving operations into the physical building as laid out in Section 3, Subsection C.

- D. The construction of a physical building for the Bank of Minnesota will be carried out by the Department of Commerce which will provide the necessary funding, with the design process carried out by the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design, with predicted costs of construction being no more than five billion dollars. There will be a six-month period for planning and a two-year construction period.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dilworth-Glyndon Felton High School

A Bill to Ban Lobbyist Monetary Contributions

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. No lobbyist or lobbying entity shall make any direct or indirect monetary contributions, gifts, or any other form of financial support to any public official, or candidate for public office.

SECTION 2. A. Lobbyist shall be defined as any individual or entity that receives compensation for advocating or attempting to influence legislative or executive actions on behalf of a client or organization.

SECTION 3. A Public Official Shall be Defined as any elected individual holding a position in federal, state, or local government.

SECTION 4. The implementation of this bill shall be overseen by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SECTION 5. Any Lobbyist or Lobbying agency found to be in violation of this bill will be charged up to \$250,000, and a suspension of their lobbying registration for up to two years.

a) The Federal Bureau of Investigation will be in charge of deciding the punishment based on the incident.

b) Repeat violations may result in the permanent ban from Lobbying

SECTION 6. Funding shall be allocated from a 5% pay cut for all Public Officials

SECTION 7. This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School

A Bill To Make Puerto Rico a State of the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Puerto Rico will be admitted into statehood in the United States of America.

SECTION 2. Statehood will be defined as the status of being a U.S. state. Puerto Ricans will be given all rights citizens from U.S. states have, including, but not limited to, voting for presidential candidates, electing their own senators, electing their own representatives, etc.

SECTION 3. The US Department of the Interior (DOI) will oversee the enforcement of this bill.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the St. Michael-Albertville High School

A Bill to Fund Free Municipal Restrooms

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Congress shall establish an annual fund of \$500 million to support the construction and maintenance of restrooms in municipal areas that shall be free to the public and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (closing only for cleaning, maintenance, and repairs).

SECTION 2. These funds shall be managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which shall establish a program that enables municipalities to apply for, receive, and utilize these funds. Congress directs HUD to ensure this process promotes the construction of public restrooms in areas that would most benefit from them.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next congressional fiscal year.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by the NSDA