

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2024 Gracia Burkill Memorial Tournament

Legislation Docket

Welcome to the 2024 Gracia Burkill Memorial Tournament! Enclosed, please find the following legislation.

- [A Bill to End Deregulated Energy Markets](#) (Sen. Kim, Acton-Boxborough Regional HS)
- [A Bill to Pay it Forward](#) (Sen. Finn, Boston Latin School)
- [A Resolution to Support the Continued Employment of FTC Chair Lina Khan to Protect American Consumers](#) (Sen. Lightfoot, Catholic Memorial School)
- [A Bill to Ban Unpaid Internships](#) (Sen. Das, Natick HS)
- [A Bill to Centralize Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Future Advancement](#) (Sen. Shrestha, Newton South HS)
- [A Bill to Help American Natives and Kinship by Striking Blood Quantum Qualifications \(T.H.A.N.K.S.\)](#) (Sen. Ismahili, Revere HS)
- [A Bill to Prohibit Fracking](#) (Sen. He, Shrewsbury HS)
- **Super Session:** [A Resolution Consenting to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#) (MSDL)

Thanks for making our first tournament of the season a huge success. We had a very close final round, which is indicative of a) the depth of our talent pool and b) how hard it is to judge between strong competitors of similar achievement levels. I'm especially grateful to our returning competitors, who modeled good leadership by serving as Presiding Officers and showing the way for our novices.

I'm sometimes asked what the break point is in a tournament. For instance, at Revere, with three chambers, we took four competitors from each chamber to Super Session. At events with two chambers, we ordinarily take six from each chamber. My message is, "Don't worry about being fourth, or about being sixth. Worry about being first place and aim for that."

Finally, a friendly procedural reminder: There is no "motion to open / close the floor for debate" and no "motion to open / close the floor for docket (agenda) nominations". These are part of the ordinary course of business in Congressional Debate. The Presiding Officer simply announces that he or she will do these things.

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

Thankful for Memes

Life Hack: Some people cry when cutting onions, the trick is not to form an emotional bond.



Friend 1: "Where's the best place to stand during an earthquake?"

Friend 2: "A doorway, a car, under the bed?"

Me, an intellectual:



Poor couch is terrified



A Bill to End Deregulated Energy Markets

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** States may not prohibit electricity suppliers/generators
2 from retailing commercial electricity.

3 **SECTION 2.** Energy suppliers/generators shall be defined as owners of
4 facilities that generate electricity for the market. Retailing commercial
5 electricity shall be defined as the selling or contract between a company
6 and a consumer for electricity.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall oversee
8 the implementation of this legislation.

9 A. Any states not complying with this legislation shall lose 15% of
10 federal electrical infrastructure funding.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect 2 years after the bill's
12 passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null
 and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Kim of Acton-Boxborough Regional High School.

A Bill to Pay it Forward

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Establishes a 5.0% per annum wealth tax on individuals possessing over \$10 million in assets.

SECTION 2. The following terms are hereby defined:

a. “Wealth tax” is a tax on the market value of total owned assets minus total liabilities.

b. “Assets” are property owned by an individual which possess value and are available to settle debts.

SECTION 3. The IRS will be responsible for the implementation of this bill.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mason Finn from Boston Latin School

A Resolution to Support the Continued Employment of FTC

Chair Lina Khan to Protect American Consumers

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Donald Trump has expressed desires to remove incumbent Federal Trade
2 Commission Chair Lina Khan from her position; and,
3 **WHEREAS,** Chair Lina Khan has been instrumental in revitalizing antitrust
4 enforcement, addressing corporate monopolies, and advocating for fair
5 competition in markets that impact everyday Americans; and
6 **WHEREAS,** her leadership has led to investigations and actions aimed at curbing anti-
7 competitive practices among major tech companies, promoting
8 innovation, and ensuring consumer protections; and
9 **WHEREAS,** removing Chair Lina Khan would undermine ongoing efforts to modernize
10 antitrust policies and would weaken regulatory oversight at a critical time
11 when market concentration continues to harm small businesses and
12 consumer choice; and
13 **WHEREAS,** the Federal Trade Commission's work under Chair Khan's tenure has
14 been essential in preventing further consolidation of corporate power,
15 which will provide for economic equity and democratic stability in the
16 long term; now, therefore, be it
17 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled does not support Donald Trump in
18 removing FTC Chair Lina Khan and will not confirm the appointment of
19 any other FTC chairs, given no unforeseen events occur.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Will Lightfoot.

A Bill to Ban Unpaid Internships

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All individuals working at a for-profit organization must be
3 considered as employees and receive compensation for their work
4 regardless of primary beneficiary status.

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 A. Primary beneficiary status shall be defined as the party that benefits
7 the most from an individual's employment.

8 B. Work shall be defined as any individual performing a task for an
9 organization.

10 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Office of
11 Personnel Management are responsible for enforcing this legislation.

12 A. The U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for private employment,
13 State and local government employment, and Federal employees of
14 the Library of Congress, U.S. Postal Service, Postal Rate Commission,
15 and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

16 B. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management is responsible for enforcing
17 this legislation for employees of other Executive Branch agencies, and
18 by the U.S. Congress for covered employees of the Legislative Branch.

19 C. Any company not in compliance with this legislation will be required
20 to pay a fine determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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

23

24

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Sanjhabati Das, Natick High School.

A Bill to Centralize Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Future Advancement

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government shall hereby
2 establish the Federal Electric Vehicle Commission (FEVC) under the
3 Department of Transportation and invest in a \$2 billion stimulus to
4 substantially increase the accessibility and integrity of public electric
5 vehicle (EV) charging stations through the construction of public EV
6 charging stations and governmental oversight.

7 **SECTION 2.** A. An “electric vehicle” (EV) is defined as any vehicle whose
8 propulsion is powered fully or mostly by electricity.

9 B. “Public EV charging stations” are defined as any current or future
10 charging stations that are owned, managed, and funded by the local, state,
11 or federal government and specifically not by private corporations.

12 C. “Accessibility” is defined as widespread ease of access to charging
13 stations with the consideration of addressing underserved communities.

14 C. “Integrity” is defined as the reliability of charging stations regarding
15 pricing, quality, and operation.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Transportation (DOT) shall oversee the implementation
17 of this legislation and provide semi-annual audits regarding the
18 effectiveness of funding.

19 A. The newly established Federal Electric Vehicle Commission (FEVC)
20 will consist of a committee of qualified government agents who will
21 operate under the oversight of the Department of Transportation
22 with the task of implementing the goals outlined in Section 1.

23 B. This legislation’s funding for the DOT and FEVC shall be provided in
24 four portions of \$500 million dollars every three months.

25 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on March 1st, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lukas Shrestha of Newton South High School.

A Bill To Help American Natives and Kinship by Striking Blood Quantum Qualifications (T.H.A.N.K.S.)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Remove the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) as
3 a form of identification administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
4 Eliminate blood quantum requirements for movement into Canada by
5 amending Section 289 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
6 1359) to remove “who possess at least 50 per centum of blood of the
7 American Indian race” and inserting the following: “who are members of
8 a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States”.

9 **SECTION 2.** “Remove” shall not include changing separate federally
10 recognized Tribes’ membership qualifications.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Indian Affairs shall oversee the
12 implementation of this bill and the removal of CDIBs.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on November 28, 2024. All
14 laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

15

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Erta Ismahili, Revere High School.

A Bill to Prohibit Fracking

BE IT ENACTED BY CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall hereby ban fracking on US land by prohibiting the issuing of fracking permits upon implementation of this legislation. All companies currently participating in fracking must cease these activities by 2030. At the beginning of 2030, all currently existing fracking permits will be revoked and be considered null and void.

SECTION 2. Fracking, or hydraulic fracking, is the process of extracting natural oil and gas through the drilling into the earth's crust and the high-pressure injection of water and other chemicals to create cracks in rock.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency (abbreviated EPA) shall be jointly responsible for implementing and enforcing this bill. **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect immediately upon passage

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Amy He, Shrewsbury High School

A Resolution Consenting to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, the Congress here assembled consents to the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote, specifically among the States and the District of Columbia which shall have adopted this Compact as of the passage of this legislation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That consent to the addition of States to this Compact shall be further required at such time as each State shall adopt this Compact.

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 position by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.