

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2025 Mardi Gras

Legislation Docket

Welcome to Mardi Gras 2025! Enclosed, please find the following legislation.

- [A Bill to Eliminate Cash Bail](#) (Sen. Wilcox, Boston Latin School)
- [A Bill to Provide Employees with Paid Parental Leave](#) (Sen. Lee, Natick HS)
- [A Bill to Increase Funding to the VA to Support Veterans' Mental Health](#) (Sen. Barakat, Newton South HS)
- [Limiting Outrageous Cost Kickups \(LOCK\) Act](#) (Sen. Chopra, Shrewsbury HS)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Eliminate Rule 65\(c\) to Remove the Bond Requirement for Preliminary Injunctions](#) (MSDL)

It's been a while since we've gathered in MSDL competition. Congratulations to all competitors who have competed and experienced success on various circuits outside of our League. Additionally, I'd like to recognize those who qualified to represent the New England District of the NSDA, the Boston Archdiocese, and the Worcester Diocese at the various National Tournaments in the spring! I hope you'll bring what you've learned at these tournaments to bear in the remaining tournaments this season.

Happy prepping!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

Laissez Les Bon Memes Rouler



Babe what's wrong, you've barely touched your Steggo Waffle



Another juggler gives up on his dreams...



Lance 🐶
@BornAKang

A short story of betrayal:



A Bill to Eliminate Cash Bail

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All forms of cash bail that are used to avoid a period of time
2 serving in a detention center shall be eliminated in favor of risk assessment
3 systems, electronic monitoring or other systems that the state government
4 decides.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. “Cash Bail” shall be defined as the use of currency to
6 avoid a stay in a detention center while awaiting a criminal trial.

7 B. “Detention Center” shall be defined as a place where criminals or
8 defendants reside.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) along with the Department
10 of Corrections shall be in charge of implementing and enforcing this
11 legislation.

12 A. Violations of this bill shall result in a 10 percent cut in federal grants for
13 law enforcement per each violation.

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 Mason Finn of Boston Latin School.

A Bill to Provide Employees with Paid Parental Leave

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** All employers shall provide all employees with a minimum
2 of 12 weeks of paid parental leave, regardless of gender for any employee
3 who has been employed by that employer for a minimum of one year.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Parental leave is defined as time taken off by someone who
5 is a guardian to a minor. It can be taken any time after an employee has
6 become a parent/guardian, however it can only be taken once per child.
7 Furthermore, it can be taken up to 1 month before the end of a pregnancy
8 or finalization of an adoption.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** The Bureau of Labor will oversee regulation of this policy,
10 and the IRS will oversee the regulation of business taxes for the purpose of
11 creating a fund to be utilized by businesses that make less than 2 million
12 dollars per year to help cover these costs.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026.
- SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared
 null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Maggie Lee from Natick High School.

A Bill to Increase Funding to the VA to Support Veterans' Mental Health

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The U.S. Federal Government shall increase the funding of the Department of Veteran Affairs by \$15 billion to be specifically allocated towards expanding mental health services, veterans benefits, and grant programs.

SECTION 2. A. "Mental health services" shall be defined as counseling for PTSD, MST, substance abuse, and general mental health counseling, outpatient and inpatient.

B. "Grant programs" shall be defined as funding given to community organizations that focus on serving veterans by the VA through suicide prevention programs, veteran home construction programs, therapeutic art, and legacy programs.

C. "Veteran benefit programs" shall be defined as programs supporting veterans financially through disability, pension, compensation, educational programs, life insurance, and home loans.

SECTION 3. The Department of the Treasury shall oversee the disbursement of funding and conduct comprehensive audits to determine the effectiveness of funding annually. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) shall manage the internal spending of the funds within the VA.

A. \$8 billion will be used for funding mental health programs.

B. \$2 billion will be allocated to continue the already existing grant program within the VA, intended for community-driven organizations.

C. \$5 billion will be used to fund veteran benefit programs.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect starting immediately after passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Zayna Barakat of Newton South High School.

Limiting Outrageous Cost Kickups (LOCK) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Rent control standards shall be established nationwide, limiting annual rent increases for residential properties to no more than the rate of inflation in each respective state.
- SECTION 2.** Rent control is defined as government regulations established to limit the amount a landlord can charge for leasing a home (including but not limited to houses, apartments, studios, lofts, condos) or renewing a lease.
- SECTION 3.** The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development will enforce this legislation. HUD will collaborate with state housing agencies to monitor compliance and provide the resources needed for enforcement.
- a. Rent control standards shall apply to all rental properties except those participating in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which shall continue to follow existing HUD guidelines.
 - b. In order to ensure effective resource distribution and enforcement, the HUD will be given an initial \$500 million. Additional funding may be requested upon the passage of this legislation.
- SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st 2026. 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 Eliminate Rule 65(c) to Remove the Bond Requirement for Preliminary Injunctions

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Rule 65(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is hereby repealed. No party seeking preliminary injunctive relief against the United States in any federal court shall be required to post a bond to obtain same.

SECTION 2. All laws in conflict with 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 position by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.