

PHSSL District One

Senate Legislation February 22, 2025



Note to coaches and competitors:
Items 1 – 3 were submitted by schools in this tournament. Items 4 – 10 are the supplemental pieces gathered from recent tournaments. The order of legislation will be determined in session.

What follows in this packet are pages 15-16 of the [Standing Rules for District Tournaments](#) (revised January, 2025). Plans A (four or fewer entries), B (five to eight entries), C (9-20 participants) and D (21 or more entries) are explained. Obviously C and D will not apply to District 1.

There are three schools who have submitted legislation: Fairview, McDowell and Mercyhurst. Due to bids earned, Fairview may enter only one student. McDowell and Mercyhurst may enter a maximum of two, therefore we have a maximum possible number of five entries. With that in mind, we will follow either **Plan A** or **Plan B**.

We advise that you look at the PHSSL [Congress Handbook](#) (revised June, 2024) for the procedures.

D15. STUDENT CONGRESS: SENATE

1. Each school shall be permitted two entries. Each competing school is required to submit one piece of legislation. The District Chair may add legislation if not enough is collected. It is suggested that 12 pieces of legislation is enough for debate. Please consult the PHSSL Congress manual for proper format for legislation. Each District Chairperson may establish a deadline for legislation based on the date of the district tournament. The District Chairperson will distribute the legislation packet at least two weeks before the district tournament, along with an agenda for the day. This agenda will be a random order of the school submitted bills first, followed by the supplementary legislation that was added by the District Chairperson.
2. Debate in the district senate will follow the rules and procedures outlined in the Congress manual.
3. Four plans are outlined for use in Senate for the District Tournament. These plans are designed to meet the needs of the various districts in the League and are based on the number of participants. Before the first session, the District Chairperson must announce which plan is to be followed for that event in the tournament.

PLAN A

When there are four (4) or fewer Senators, two sessions will commence. Senators will debate randomly ordered supplementary legislation in the first session. In the second session, Senators will debate the bills submitted by the district schools in random order. All competitors will make the same number of speeches in an hour of competition, ensuring a fair and balanced debate. The session can be concluded early at the parliamentarian's discretion.

PLAN B

If there are five (5) to eight (8) participants, there shall be three rounds of Congress (similar to speech rounds) with the Parliamentarian acting as Presiding Officer. Please consult the PHSSL Congress manual for the format of the full debate session. For the first round, the speeches will be on any of the supplementary legislation; the second round will debate the bills submitted by district schools; the third round will debate any remaining legislation. Judges (one per round) shall rank all speakers. District winners are determined on the total of the judges' ranks. The two speakers with the lowest total cumulative ranks shall qualify to the state tournament. Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which senator(s) qualify to the state tournament, or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. Ties will be broken using reciprocals. If the tie cannot be broken using reciprocals, the parliamentarian will rank the students to break the tie.

PLAN C

If there are nine (9) to twenty (20) participants, there shall be two full two-hour debate sessions of Senate with a Presiding Officer for each Session. Please consult PHSSL Congress manual for the format of the full debate session. For 9 entries, the top 2 will advance to States. Entries between 10 and 20 will advance 3 to States. Judges (two per Session) and parliamentarians shall rank their top six speakers with all other speakers receiving a rank of 7. District winners are determined on total (judges plus parliamentarian) ranks. The three speakers with the lowest total cumulative ranks shall qualify to the state tournament. Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which senator(s) qualify to the state tournament, or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. Ties will be broken using reciprocals. If the tie cannot be broken using reciprocals, the ranks of the parliamentarian will be used to break the tie.

PLAN D

If there are twenty-one (21) or more entries, students shall be separated into two chambers. There shall be two full two-hour debate sessions of Senate with a Presiding Officer for each Session. Please consult PHSSL Congress manual for the format of the full debate session. Judges (one per session and parliamentarians shall rank their top six speakers with all other speakers receiving a rank of 7. The top 5-7 speakers in each chamber will advance to Super Session based on total preliminary (judges and parliamentarian) ranks.

Ties for breaking to Super Session will use reciprocal ranks. The Super Session will be one and a half hours. District winners are determined on total (two judges plus preferential vote by the chamber as described in the congress manual) Super Session ranks. The four speakers with the lowest total cumulative super Session rank shall qualify to the state tournament. Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which senator(s) qualify to the state tournament, or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. Ties will be broken using judges' preference of the ranks in the Super Session. If the tie cannot be broken using judges' preference, reciprocals will be used.

D16. DRAMA

In order to participate in the Regional Drama Festival, (and/or the District Tournament), a school's state membership dues must be paid at least two weeks prior to the date of that festival and/or tournament or by the State-set membership deadline, whichever comes first.

Every play entered in a Regional Drama Festival will be allocated a total of 60 minutes for tech rehearsal, including setting of the stage, and striking the set. The total time to accomplish these may not be exceeded. The State Drama Festival will be a live event, run in conjunction with Commonwealth University, Bloomsburg. See the Drama Handbook for details.

D17. PARTICIPATION

In Districts which hold split tournaments (debate and speech on separate days):

- a. A debater who does not qualify to the State Tournament may participate in the subsequent District Individual Events (including Public Forum Debate) Tournament.
- b. An individual who does not qualify to the State Tournament in an individual event (including Public Forum Debate) may participate in the subsequent District Debate Tournament.
- c. Additional Exceptions: Students participating in Regional and State Drama Festivals may compete in District and State individual events and debate contests.

D18. ALTERNATE QUALIFIERS TO STATE TOURNAMENT

If a student or debate team who has qualified to the State Tournament cannot attend the Tournament, the coach should notify the Executive Director no later than the Friday prior to the State Tournament. The Executive Director will then certify, if possible, the next ranked student or

**A BILL TO ELIMINATE TAXATION ON TIPPED INCOME TO PROMOTE FAIR COMPENSATION
FOR SERVICE WORKERS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: Tipped income shall be exempt from taxation, allowing service workers to receive the full benefit of gratuities from patrons, thereby improving their overall income and financial stability.

Article II: The purposes of this bill, "tipped income" is defined as any voluntary monetary gratuity given to a service worker by a customer in recognition of services rendered, which is not included in the final bill. "Service workers" refers to individuals employed in industries such as hospitality, food service, and personal care, where tips are a customary part of compensation.

Article III: This policy shall take effect on January 1, 2025, allowing adequate time for the implementation of necessary adjustments by both employers and the Department of Revenue.

Article IV: The Department of Revenue shall oversee the enforcement of this bill. A. The Department shall implement a comprehensive monitoring system to ensure compliance with the exemption on tipped income, including guidelines for accurate reporting by service workers and employers. B. Regular audits will be conducted, and an annual report will be submitted to Congress to assess the economic impact on service workers' earnings, the hospitality industry, and overall tax revenue.

Article V: All other laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby be declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

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A Bill to Prohibit 'Anti-Homeless' Architecture

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The use of 'anti-homeless' hostile architecture in public spaces is prohibited
2 within all states and territories residing under the United States delegation.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** 'Anti-homeless' hostile architecture includes but is not limited to; slanted
4 benches, unnecessary armrests on benches, street spikes, or any other
5 architecture specifically designed to prohibit the shelter of the homeless
6 population.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** All current public architecture using the aforementioned methods or any
8 other method will have until 6 months after the enactment of this
9 legislation to replace or fix said architecture.
- 10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will go into effect June 1, 2025.
- 11 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
12

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Fairview High School.

**A BILL TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY TO
IMPROVE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: Capital punishment/Death Penalty shall be banned at the federal level.

Article II: Capital punishment is the state-sanctioned execution of a person as punishment for a crime. By passing this bill, the federal government shall no longer be able to seek death sentences.

Article III: This legislation will take effect on Jan 1, 2026.

Article IV: The United States Department of Justice will oversee the enforcement of the bill.

A. Death sentences declared before Jan 1, 2026, will not be affected.

B. Further death sentences are illegal federally after the bill is passed.

Article V: All laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Mercyhurst Prep

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**Prelims: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Revoke the
Presidential Power to Pardon**

1 **RESOLVED,** That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the
3 Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states
4 within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE —

5 **SECTION 1.** The power of the President to “grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences
6 against the United States” (as described in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution) shall
7 be unconditionally revoked.

8 **SECTION 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate
9 legislation.

Introduced by the NSDA Congressional Debate Legislation Docket

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A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Establish a Right to Healthcare

1 **RESOLVED,** That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United
2 States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
3 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from
4 the date of its submission by the Congress:

5 **ARTICLE —**

6 **SECTION 1.** All citizens of the United States and its territories are henceforth entitled to comprehensive
7 healthcare free of charge.

8 **SECTION 2.** Comprehensive healthcare shall include at minimum preventative, urgent, and emergency
9 care in the areas of traditional healthcare, dental care, ophthalmological care, and
10 behavioral healthcare.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

B - A Bill to Implement a 4 Day School Week

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1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The 5 day school week is hereby dismantled for all federally funded
3 schools and replaced with a 4 day school week.

4 **SECTION 2.** 4 day school weeks must consist of at least 890 hours per school year.

5 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Education and local school boards will oversee
6 the enforcement of 4-day school weeks and the dismantling of 5-day
7 school weeks.

8 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the start of the 2027 school year.

9 **A.** All schools that do not comply with this legislation will have their
10 funding revoked by the federal government until they make the
11 necessary changes.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Phoenix Country Day School

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Cottontail Final 2 - A Bill to Remove Troops from South Korea

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States will withdraw all its remaining military personnel from South
3 Korea effective immediately. Military support will still be available for South
4 Korean use, if needed.

5 **SECTION 2.** Military support shall be defined as military aid and US military operations in
6 conjunction with South Korean forces.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DoD) and the US Department of State will oversee
8 implementation of this legislation.

9 A. The US Department of State will authorize distribution of military aid if
10 needed.

11 B. The US Department of State will conduct yearly audits to ensure proper use
12 of military aid, if distributed.

13 C. US military operations shall not be offensive, except in the case of aggression
14 from South Korean adversaries such as North Korea, China and Russia.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation
16 are hereby declared null and void.

Lovingly borrowed for Congressional Debate from the Texas Forensic Association

S3-1: THE GREEN TRANSITION ACT

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1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Over the course of three years, all federal subsidies currently allocated to
3 the fossil fuel industry shall be redirected to support renewable energy
4 initiatives.

5 **SECTION 2.** Renewable energy is defined as energy derived from natural sources that
6 replenish without depletion. This includes, but is not limited to, solar,
7 wind, and hydroelectric power.

8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection
9 Agency (EPA) will be responsible for implementing and overseeing the
10 reallocation of these funds.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ridge High School

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Prelims: A Bill to Increase the Use of Automation in Healthcare

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** A new program of subsidies will be established to provide funding to
3 healthcare organizations for medically related robot devices.

4 **SECTION 2.** Healthcare organizations shall be defined as hospitals, public clinics, and out-
5 patient surgery centers. Medically related robot devices are defined as
6 artificial intelligence technology that can perform basic medical procedures
7 and tasks including (but not limited to) delivering medication, assisting in
8 surgeries, and routine care operations.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services will oversee enforcement of
10 this legislation and administration of the subsidies.

11 A. \$500 million will be allocated for the subsidy program.

12 B. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall have the authority to
13 approve specific medically related robot devices for coverage under this
14 subsidy.

15 C. Subsidies will be need-based, with underfunded and understaffed
16 healthcare organizations receiving priority in receiving subsidies for
17 healthcare related robot devices.

18 D. The Joint Committee on Taxation shall be responsible for appropriating
19 the required funds for this program.

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

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A Bill to Remove Tax Exempt Status for Large Private Universities

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** All large private universities' 501 (c)(3) status shall be revoked and these
- 2 universities shall be required to pay federal taxes.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** A large private university will be defined as an institution of higher
- 4 education and research that is privately funded which awards academic degrees in several
- 5 academic disciplines in both undergraduate and graduate programs and that has an
- 6 endowment of at least \$3 billion dollars.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Department shall oversee the enforcement of this
- 8 bill and determine the punishment for companies which do not comply .
- 9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026.
- 10 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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- 12

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sanjhbati Das from Natick High School.