

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2025 Needham March Merryness

Legislation Docket

Welcome to Needham March Merryness 2025! Enclosed, please find the following legislation.

- [A Bill to End the Tip Credit System](#) (Sen. Abbasi, Boston Latin School)
- [A Bill to Require the Posting of Cancer Warning Labels by Alcohol Suppliers](#) (Sen. Singer, Natick HS)
- [A Bill to Strengthen U.S. Economic Partnerships with the Caribbean and Latin America](#) (Sen. Pressman, Needham HS)
- [A Bill to Implement a Gradual Gasoline Tax to Encourage the Use of Electric Vehicles](#) (Sen. Henry, Newton South HS)
- [A Bill to Aid Social Security through Equitable Taxation \(ASSET\)](#) (Sen. Ismahili, Revere HS)
- [A Bill to Withdraw Military Troops from South Korea](#) (Sen. He, Shrewsbury HS)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Ban the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Agriculture](#) (MSDL)

We're getting closer to the State Championship Tournament at Walpole HS on April 5. I encourage you to use this tournament and the Lincoln-Sudbury Tournament to practice your skills and prepare. I also encourage competitors to try new roles – for instance, if you have not served as a Presiding Officer before, then now might be the time to try it. You might even positively surprise yourself!

Happy prepping!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

Meme Madness



Gushers sandwich with Fruit by the Foot as bread



TM IG @TheLitttestMemes

this is what I became an adult for. To be able to go down to the store and make this without anyone telling me I can't

Good thing somebody took a picture because these trucks are probably never ever getting back together



Buys my dogs a new toy

Them: "Time to perform an emergency squeakectomy on our latest patient"



A Bill to End the Tip Credit System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The federal tipped subminimum wage shall increase annually by \$1.50 per hour until it equals the standard federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

SECTION 2. Employers must pay tipped workers at least the full minimum wage before tips, and the current “tip credit” system shall be abolished.

SECTION 3. A. “Tipped Employee” shall be defined as any worker who regularly receives more than \$30 per month in tips, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

B. “Subminimum wage” shall be defined as the lower base wage that employers are currently permitted to pay tipped workers under federal law.

SECTION 4. Small businesses, as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA), may claim a tax credit of up to 50% of the additional wages paid due to this law for a period of 3 years. The SBA will also offer grants to help small businesses cover payroll increases for tipped workers.

SECTION 5. A. The Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division shall oversee the implementation of this bill.

B. The Small Business Administration shall administer the tax credits outlined in Section 4.

SECTION 6. This bill shall take effect on January 1st, 2027.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ikra Abbasi of Boston Latin School.

A Bill to Require the Posting of Cancer Warning Labels by Alcohol Suppliers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Any establishment, manufacturer, or otherwise supplier of
2 any alcoholic beverage is required to post a label on the product stating
3 the following: “Warning: Alcohol use may cause cancers, including but not
4 limited to breast and colon cancers” in black boldface letter no less than 12
5 point in size.

6 **SECTION 2.** The term “supplier” refers to any person or persons
7 engaged in the business of making a consumer product directly or
8 indirectly available to consumers.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) along
10 with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall oversee the
11 implementation of this legislation.

12 A. The TTB shall enforce this legislation for alcohol over alcohol-by-
13 volume (ABV) 7% per the Federal Alcohol Administration Act.

14 B. The FDA shall enforce this legislation for alcohol under ABV 7%.

15 C. Failure to comply with this legislation shall result in a fine determined
16 by the aforementioned agencies.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on April 1, 2025.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sarah Singer of Natick High School.

Bill to Strengthen U.S. Economic Partnerships with the Caribbean and Latin America

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall launch the North America-Caribbean-Latin America Economic Partnership Initiative to deepen investment, infrastructure development, and trade relationships between the U.S., the Caribbean, and Latin American nations up to Panama. The initiative will increase economic strength, counterbalance the growing People's Republic of China's presence, and enhance regional stability.

SECTION 2. A. The program will spend \$7.5 billion over five years to finance infrastructure development, energy modernization, telecommunications expansion, and small business growth in partner nations. Assistance will be given priority to projects that:

- A. To promote trade, tourism, and disaster resilience, improve significant infrastructure, including ports, roads, and airports.
- B. Expand renewable energy programs to reduce dependence on Chinese-sponsored energy projects.
- C. Enhance telecommunications and cybersecurity infrastructure, preferring U.S. and allied technology to Chinese entities like Huawei.
- D. Develop regional supply chains to reduce dependence on Chinese production and deepen North American economic integration.

SECTION 3. A. The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) shall be responsible for fund implementation, distribution, and oversight.

B. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will be responsible for transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption practices.

C. Economic progress reports, project completion, and the initiative's impact on United States strategic interests will be presented annually to Congress.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on October 23, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Gabe Pressman of Needham High School.

A Bill to Implement a Gradual Gasoline Tax To Encourage the Use of Electric Vehicles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Federal Government shall implement a gradual increase in the
2 federal excise gasoline tax of \$0.05 per gallon per year over the course of
3 five years, ending with an overall increase of \$0.25 by FY 2031 to encourage
4 widespread use of electric vehicles.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** “Electric vehicles” are defined as vehicles that are completely or partially
6 powered by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery and is
7 capable of being charged from an external source.
8 A “gasoline tax” is defined as a tax imposed on gasoline consumers by
9 charging a certain amount of money per gallon of gasoline consumed.
- 10 **SECTION 3.** Tax revenue would be used to further encourage EV use including:
11 A. 40% of the revenue shall be used to support rebates, incentives, and tax
12 credits for consumers purchasing electric vehicles. To ensure equal
13 access to EVs, grants of up to \$12,000 for the purchasing or leasing of
14 new or used electric vehicles shall be available for consumers at or
15 below 300% of the federal poverty level.
16 B. 45% of the revenue shall be allocated to expanding EV infrastructure by
17 providing grants for the construction of charging infrastructure in high-
18 need and rural areas.
19 C. 15% of the revenue shall be used for the research and development of
20 EV technologies.
- 21 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Energy will oversee the implementation of this
22 legislation by submitting an annual report to Congress outlining the total
23 revenue generated from the tax and progress on achieving purchasing
24 incentives and new infrastructure goals.
25 The Internal Revenue Service shall enforce the implementation of this
26 legislation and manage the collection and disbursement of all revenue.
- 27 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect in FY 2026.
- 28 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by June Henry of Newton South High School.

A Bill to Aid Social Security through Equitable Taxation (A.S.S.E.T.)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Amend Subsection (a) of Section 1411 of the Internal
3 Revenue Code of 1986 replace “3.8” with “15”. Amend Section 201(a) of
4 the Social Security Act to add “62 percent of the funds gained from
5 taxation under Section 1411 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 will be
6 appropriated to the Social Security Trust Funds.”

7 **SECTION 2.** A) “Social Security Trust Funds” refers to the Old-Age
8 Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance (DI)
9 Trust Fund under the Department of the Treasury.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security
11 Administration (SSA) shall oversee the enforcement of new tax
12 regulations and managing funds.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on August 14, 2025. All laws
 in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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

A Bill to Withdraw Military Troops from South Korea

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States of America shall gradually withdraw its currently stationed military
2 troops from the Republic of Korea, or South Korea. In two years, all American troops will
3 withdraw from South Korea unless the President — or acting Commander in Chief, in the
4 event where the presidential position is vacant or otherwise unable to act — of South
5 Korea requests defensive military aid in the event of a declared national emergency.
- 6 **SECTION 2.** “Withdraw” shall be defined as the complete removal of all stationed troops from the
7 state. “Defensive military aid” shall be defined as military troops, arms, funding, and
8 infrastructure appropriated in response to active military hostility. The validity of a
9 “national emergency” shall be determined and declared by the acting Commander in Chief
10 of South Korea.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense shall oversee the implementation of this bill.
- 12 A. The President of the United States has the power to terminate withdrawal at the
13 request of the acting Commander in Chief in the event of a national emergency.
14 American troops may only be stationed at the discretion of the President of the
15 United States and the acting Commander in Chief of South Korea jointly. Any
16 American military operations in South Korea must be strictly defensive after the
17 implementation of this legislation.
- 18 **SECTION 4.** The withdrawing of troops shall begin immediately upon passage, with 25% of the troops
19 withdrawing by January 1, 2026. By January 1, 2027, all troops deployed in South Korea
20 must withdraw.
- 21 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Amy He, Shrewsbury High School.

A Bill to Ban the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Agriculture

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A. The use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agricultural practices within the United States shall be prohibited. Violations of this section shall carry civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per occurrence.

B. This bill shall allocate \$3 million each for Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 for Department of Agriculture educational initiatives to provide farmers with guidance and alternative pest management resources.

SECTION 2. “Neonicotinoid pesticides” shall include substances containing imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, acetamiprid, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, and thiacloprid. "Agricultural Practices" shall include all activities related to the cultivation of crops, livestock feed, or other farm-produced goods for commercial or subsistence purposes.

SECTION 3. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall be responsible for enforcing Section 1A in the ordinary course of its operation. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall carry out Section 1B in accordance with the funding provided therein.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2025. 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.