

# Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

## 2025 State Championship

### Legislation Docket

Welcome to Walpole High School, and welcome to the 2025 State Championship in Congressional Debate! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

[2025 State Congressional Debate Championship – Special Instructions](#) (PLEASE READ!)

#### Legislative Items for Debate:

- [A Bill to Standardize Gender Modification on Legal Documentation](#) (Sen. Lee, Acton-Boxborough RHS)
- [A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act and Invest in American Shipbuilding](#) (Sen. Lightfoot, Catholic Memorial)
- [The Mahmoud Khalil Civil Liberties Act of 2025](#) (Sen. Adams, Milton Academy)
- [A Resolution to Encourage NATO Spending Equity](#) (Sen. Moldover, Natick HS)
- [A Resolution to Rejoin the CPTPP to Strengthen U.S. Trade Leadership](#) (Sen. Pressman, Needham HS)
- [The CEO \(Curbing Excessive Overcompensation\) Act](#) (Sen. Moktar, Newton South HS)
- [A Bill to Repeal the Alien Enemies Act of 1798](#) (Sen. Ismahili, Revere HS)
- [A Resolution to Support the Japan – Philippines Alliance](#) (Sen. Suryanarayan and Peng, Shrewsbury HS)
- [A Bill to Strengthen Border Security and Combat Cartel Activity](#) (Sen. Kulkarni, Walpole HS)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Provide Federal Funding for the North-South Rail Link](#) (MSDL)
- **Super Session:** [A Resolution Supporting a U.S. – Ukraine Rare Earth Minerals Agreement](#) (MSDL)

Congratulations to all of you who have worked so hard and learned so much this year. I'm grateful for all you have done to help grow Congressional Debate and spread the word. Just looking back at the numbers, we had:

- 84 unique competitors over the course of the season
- 32 competitors entered on average per tournament (maximum was 39 at Gracia Burkill – Natick)
  - All but one tournament had 30 or more entries – probably the strongest year we've ever had!
- 141 State Bids awarded
- 37 students achieving full qualification to the State Championship (based on receiving two or more bids)

All the best to our graduating seniors in their future endeavors – and we'll be recognizing you at the start of our tournament. To those coming back next year – keep the torch held high, and tell all your younger siblings about the event. You are the present and future of Congressional Debate.

Happy prepping!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden  
MSDL Chair of Congress

# 2025 MSDL State Congressional Debate Championship Procedures

The State Congressional Debate Championship recognizes and celebrates excellence in speaking, debating, and leadership. It is the culminating event of our season. Please review this document and reach out to the Chair with any questions.

Unless otherwise specified herein, these procedures may not be modified or waived by a motion to suspend the rules.

## Guidelines for Decorum at the State Championship Tournament

The purpose of these guidelines is to elevate the experience for delegates competing for the State Championship. We want to ensure a positive and professional environment. We also want everyone to be able to participate at their best. Please keep in mind the following:

- All delegates shall be referred to as Senators in all sessions.
- Presiding Officers are respectfully asked not to permit “open chambers” at the State Championship Tournament. Any delegate who must leave or re-enter the chamber should rise to a point of personal privilege to do so.
- Judges and Parliamentarians shall hold delegates accountable for proper conduct and use of parliamentary procedure. Please note that the following motions *do not exist*:
  - “Motion to open (or close) the floor for debate”
  - “Motion to open (or close) the floor for presiding officer nominations”
  - “Motion to open (or close) the floor for agenda nominations”
- Be mindful of proper use of the terms *docket* and *agenda*.
  - The *docket* is the list of bills and resolutions included in this packet.
  - The *agenda* is the order in which each chamber will debate the *docket* items.
- Be sure to use *recess* and *adjourn* properly.
  - Motion to *Recess* is when the chamber breaks out of decorum and for lunch.
  - Motion to *Adjourn* is when the chamber is completely finished with debate – at the end of both the Preliminary Session and the Championship Session.

## Joint Session

The day shall begin with the Joint Session of Congress, to be attended by all delegates, first-round scorers, and parliamentarians. This gathering shall include judge orientation, recognition of graduating seniors, the Oath of Office, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Preliminary Session

The Preliminary Session shall consist of two rounds with two scorers each, as is done at standard MSDL tournaments. A Parliamentarian shall stay with each chamber through both rounds, and that person shall rank all delegates after Round Two. All five Preliminary Session ranks shall determine advancement to the Championship Session. Ties may be broken in accordance with MSDL Rules and at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The Parliamentarians shall also keep track of who served as Presiding Officers, as these individuals, if they advance to the Championship Session, shall be eligible to serve as Presiding Officers therein.

The Chair may impose limits on both recess time and speech cycles per agenda item in accordance with MSDL Rules. Competitors are strongly encouraged to prepare to debate both sides of each item on the docket enclosed in this packet.

## **Championship Session**

The Championship Session shall feature a single round. Two pieces of legislation shall comprise the docket. The chamber shall vote on the agenda, or order for debating the docket. In the event of a tie vote, the Parliamentarian shall flip a coin or use any random method to determine the agenda.

Delegates shall elect a Presiding Officer for each agenda item to be debated. Candidates must have served as Presiding Officers during the Preliminary Session. Elections shall occur prior to the start of debate on each item. The Chair or his designate shall run the elections. Delegates shall vote by secret ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, with the candidate(s) receiving the lowest number of votes dropped from each successive round of voting.

Each Presiding Officer shall preside over debate on a single agenda item. After the conclusion of debate and voting on the first agenda item, the PO shall relinquish the gavel and may participate in the debate on the second agenda item as a member of the chamber. (Similarly, delegates eligible to preside over debate on the second agenda item may participate in the debate on the first.)

The Parliamentarian shall remind the judges that the Presiding Officers are eligible for ranking.

## **Determining the State Champion and Outstanding Presiding Officer**

At the conclusion of the Championship Session, each person judging the round shall holistically rank all delegates. Final State Championship placement shall be determined in this order of priority.

1. Preliminary Session ranks (capped at 11 for each scorer and Parliamentarian) and Championship Session ranks, combined and mathematically equalized as per MSDL Rules.
2. Championship Session ranks only.
3. Judge preference on Championship Session ranks only.
4. Reciprocal fractions on Championship Session ranks only.
5. If still tied after (4), then delegates shall share final placement.

The judging panel shall also individually vote for the Presiding Officer who, in their judgment, served with superior distinction in the Championship Session. Judges shall only consider each delegate's service as Presiding Officer for this vote, and they shall disregard all other chamber activity by the delegate (including, but not limited to, speaking and asking questions). The winning Presiding Officer shall receive recognition for outstanding service to the Championship Session. The runner-up shall receive honorable mention for having presided over debate in the Championship Session.

## **Championship Session Overall Agenda**

1. Judge Orientation
2. Vote on the Legislative Agenda by the chamber
3. Election of the first Presiding Officer
4. Debate and vote on the first Agenda Item
5. Recess
6. Election of the second Presiding Officer
7. Debate and vote on the second Agenda Item
8. Adjournment
9. Judge ranking and selection of the Outstanding Presiding Officer

# State Championship Memes



**Andrea More**  
@amore\_orless

doing my affirmations



I'm not a robot



reCAPTCHA  
Privacy - Terms

Why yes, it was my first time using a pressure cooker, how did you guess?



**Dad Jokes** ✓  
@Dadsaysjokes

It probably took a good year or two to make this table...



**ID LIKE TO TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT BREAKING MY SNACKS IN HALF**

## Bonus Memes (some of Mr. Bowden's favorites)

Rare photo of a shark stepping on a Lego.



# A Bill to Standardize Gender Modification on Legal Documentation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1           **SECTION 1.**   The process of modifying gender on legal documentation  
2           shall be standardized in all states and territories of the US by only  
3           requiring: a proof of identity, a proof of citizenship, an affidavit indicating  
4           one's sex and name, and a physician's letter of the medical recognition of  
5           gender dysphoria. The option of selecting an "X" as a choice of sex for  
6           Disorders of Sexual Development (DSD) and nonbinary constituents will  
7           now become available for drivers licenses, birth certificates, and passports.

8           **SECTION 2.**   Definitions:

- 9           A. Disorders of Sexual Development(DSD) shall be defined as a group  
10          of rare conditions involving genes, hormones and reproductive  
11          organs, including genitals causing a person's sex development to be  
12          different to most other people's as defined by National Health  
13          Society standards.  
14          B. Nonbinary shall be defined as having no gender, a different gender,  
15          or being in between genders per National Health Service standards.  
16          C. Gender dysphoria shall be defined as a sense of unease that a  
17          person may have because of a mismatch between their biological  
18          sex and their gender identity per National Health Service standards.

19          **SECTION 3.**   The Department of State and Department of Transportation  
20          shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

- 21          A. Any state or agency refusing to comply in accepting the  
22          modification will be fined \$10,000 per offense.

23          **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect in FY2026. All laws in conflict  
24          with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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



# **A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act and Invest in American Shipbuilding**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, commonly known as the Jones Act, shall terminate on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**SECTION 2.** "Built, owned, and registered in the U.S.A." means constructed in the U.S.A., owned by US citizens or entities, and registered under U.S. law. "Tonnage tax" means a tax imposed per net ton, as measured under chapter 145 of title 46, United States Code, on each ship arriving at a U.S. port from an international port.

**SECTION 3.** A tonnage tax is imposed on each ship arriving at a U.S. port from an international port, as follows:

- A. \$1.50 per net ton for ships not built, owned, and registered in the U.S.A. and not crewed by at least 90% American citizens;
- B. \$0.75 per net ton for ships either built, owned, and registered in the U.S.A. or crewed by at least 90% American citizens;
- C. No tax for ships both built, owned, and registered in the U.S.A. and crewed by at least 90% American citizens.

**SECTION 4.** The Department of Transportation shall collect the tonnage tax and administer a grant program to incentivize domestic shipbuilding and domestic maritime shipping. The grant program shall be funded by tonnage tax revenues up to \$500 million annually, with excess revenues deposited into the general fund. If the tonnage tax does not generate more than \$500 million, the deficit will be taken out of the Department of Defense budget. The Department of Transportation and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall be responsible for the implementation of this legislation.

**SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Will Lightfoot*

# The Mahmoud Khalil Civil Liberties Act of 2025

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are hereby forbidden from revoking an unconditioned permanent resident card from any lawful permanent resident not duly convicted of an aggravated felony, espionage, treason, or immigration fraud.

“Lawful permanent resident” shall be defined as the holder of an unconditioned permanent resident card who maintains the United States as their primary residence pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 7701(b).

“Duly convicted” shall be defined as being found guilty by a non-specialized trial court or US District Court.

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall not have the authority to revoke any visa. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shall only revoke the visas of those in violation of US immigration law.

**SECTION 3.** No US citizen, resident, or visa-holder, shall be held responsible by a court of law or by a federal law enforcement agency for any crimes relating to “terrorism” unless the citizen, resident, or visa-holder is found to have given material support to a State Department Designated Foreign Terror Organization or otherwise perpetrated or attempted to perpetrate an aggravated felony with the intention of intimidating or coerce a civilian population to a political end.

No political expression or speech, with the exception of expression or speech duly found by a non-specialized trial court or US District Court to have fomented the commission of a felony offense, shall be considered grounds to convict on crimes relating to “terrorism.”

**SECTION 5.** The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall be tasked with enforcing this legislation. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rhys Adams, Milton Academy.*



## A Resolution to Encourage NATO Spending Equity

1           **WHEREAS,**     Defense spending in NATO states has been, and remains to  
2           be uneven; and  
3           **WHEREAS,**     Certain countries spend a substantially larger percentage of  
4           their GDP annually on military and defense; and  
5           **WHEREAS,**     The maintenance of military capability is an essential part of  
6           ensuring the security of all NATO countries, made more pertinent by rising  
7           global tensions; and  
8           **WHEREAS,**     Increased military spending, especially by member countries  
9           currently spending a lower percent of GDP than others, would benefit the  
10          security of NATO as a whole; now, therefore, be it  
11          **RESOLVED,**    That the Congress here assembled calls for fellow member  
12          countries of NATO to increase defense spending to 2.5% of their GDP by  
13          2035, be it  
14          **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That Congress recommends that the U.S.  
15          Ambassador to NATO and current administration raise the subject of  
            defense spending at upcoming meetings of the North Atlantic Council and  
            NATO summits.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Nathan Moldover, Natick High School.*

# A Resolution to Rejoin the CPTPP to Strengthen U.S. Trade Leadership

1           **WHEREAS,**     the United States withdrew from the Trans-Pacific  
2           Partnership in 2017, ceding regional trade leadership to other nations;  
3           and  
4           **WHEREAS,**     the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-  
5           Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) now governs trade among 11 nations,  
6           representing a major share of the global economy; and  
7           **WHEREAS,**     Rejoining the CPTPP would strengthen U.S. economic ties  
8           with Indo-Pacific allies and allow the U.S. to help shape high-standard  
9           trade rules; now, therefore, be it  
10          **RESOLVED,**    That the Congress here assembled calls upon the United  
11          States to formally begin the process of rejoining the CPTPP.

# The CEO (Curbing Excessive Overcompensation) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Public and private companies operating in the United States with more than  
2 1000 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees shall be prohibited from  
3 compensating their highest-paid executive more than 50 times the total  
4 compensation of their median full-time employees.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. "Highest-paid executive" refers to any individual in a leadership,  
6 managerial, or executive role such as, but not limited to, a Chief  
7 Executive Officer whose total compensation exceeds that of all other  
8 employees within the company, regardless of official job title or  
9 employment classification, including contractors and consultants.

10 B. "Total compensation" includes salary, bonuses, stock options, deferred  
11 compensation, insurance benefits, retirement contributions, relocated  
12 foreign subsidiaries/offshore entities, and any other form of direct or  
13 indirect financial benefit received during a fiscal year.

14 C. "Median employee compensation" refers to the total compensation  
15 received by the full-time employee who earns the exact middle amount  
16 when all full-time employee compensation packages are listed from  
17 lowest to highest, and includes the same compensation elements  
18 defined in Section 2B.

19 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in conjunction with the Securities and  
20 Exchange Commission (SEC), shall enforce this policy through annual  
21 financial disclosures. Companies that violate the cap will be subject to a 10%  
22 corporate surtax on total profits for that fiscal year.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall go into effect at the start of Fiscal Year 2028.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Melody Moktar of Newton South High School.*

# A Bill to Repeal the Alien Enemies Act of 1798

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2                   **SECTION 1.**     Sections 4067 through 4070 of the Revised Statutes 8 of  
3                   the United States (50 U.S.C. 21–24), the only remaining parts of the Alien  
4                   and Sedition Acts, are hereby repealed.

5                   **SECTION 2.**     Congress shall oversee the enforcement of this bill.

6                   A. The Department of Justice shall oversee the release of any and all  
7                   non-citizens currently held under custody or on trial as a result of the  
8                   Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

9                   **SECTION 4.**     This legislation will take effect on April 15, 2025. All laws in  
10                  conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

11

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

## **A Resolution to Support the Japan-Philippines Alliance**

**WHEREAS**, Japan and the Philippines have signed a mutual defense treaty; and

**WHEREAS**, this treaty is designed to counter Chinese aggression and expansionism in Asia;

and

**WHEREAS**, China has claimed territorial rights in areas previously deemed to be international waters or under the control of Japan or the Philippines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chinese navy and coast guard have repeatedly harassed Philippine ships in the South China Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, the worst of these confrontations resulted in several injuries to Filipino sailors; and

**WHEREAS**, Japan has similarly expressed concern over Chinese movements in the East China Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, unanswered Chinese aggression could embolden China; and

**WHEREAS**, Chinese hostility in Asia is detrimental to United States, Japanese, and Filipino interests, as well as those of other allies in the region; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Congress here assembled that the United States should support the treaty between Japan and the Philippines and provide assistance when requested.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate from Arya Suryanarayan and Joseph Peng of Shrewsbury High School*

# A Bill to Strengthen Border Security and Combat Cartel Activity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

## Section 1:

A. "Cartel" refers to organized criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, or other illicit activities.

B. "Border security technology" refers to surveillance systems, drones, sensors, and other equipment designed to monitor border activity.

C. "Task force" refers to a coordinated group of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies focused on cartel-related investigations.

## Section 2:

A. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall receive \$2 billion in additional funding to improve border surveillance infrastructure, including drones, motion sensors, and infrared cameras.

B. DHS shall expand partnerships with local law enforcement agencies to strengthen intelligence-sharing and response capabilities.

C. Additional resources shall be allocated to expand the hiring and training of border patrol agents, prioritizing specialized training in cartel tactics and smuggling methods.

## Section 3:

A. A Joint Cartel Task Force (JCTF) shall be established, composed of representatives from DHS, the FBI, DEA, and local law enforcement agencies.

B. The JCTF will focus on dismantling cartel supply chains, freezing cartel assets, and targeting known cartel leaders operating within U.S. borders.

C. DHS shall coordinate with Mexican authorities to improve cross-border cooperation in cartel investigations and arrests.

## Section 4:

A. Grants shall be provided to border communities for enhanced public safety initiatives, including mental health resources and addiction recovery services to mitigate the impact of cartel-related drug trafficking.

B. Funds shall also be allocated for educational programs to raise awareness about the dangers of cartel recruitment and smuggling operations.

## Section 5:

This bill shall take effect on October 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ameya Kulkarni of Walpole High School.*

# **A Bill to Provide Federal Funding for the North-South Rail Link**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The United States Congress shall allocate \$10 billion in federal funds to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the construction of a heavy rail link between North Station and South Station in Boston, Massachusetts consisting of not fewer than four tracks (colloquially known as the “North-South Rail Link”). These funds shall be subject to strict federal oversight and shall be contingent upon quarterly progress reports, cost audits, and compliance with federal infrastructure standards to ensure timely and efficient completion.

**SECTION 2.** “Heavy rail link” means a tunnel or other means of conveying passenger and freight trains that run on diesel, electric, or alternative fuel locomotives powered by methods now known or to be invented. “Strict federal oversight” means mandatory monitoring, financial audits and construction milestones set by the agency specified in Section 3. “Federal infrastructure standards” refers to guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Transportation for safety, efficiency, and environmental impact.

**SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this legislation. The DOT shall appoint a dedicated task force to review Massachusetts DOT reports, conduct site inspections, and approve fund disbursements, ensuring adherence to the terms outlined in Section 1.

**SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on July 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.*



# A Resolution Supporting a U.S. – Ukraine Rare Earth Minerals Agreement

- 1 **WHEREAS,** The United States has supported Ukraine by providing over \$400 billion in  
2 military and other aid since 2022; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** An agreement between the U.S. and Ukraine to allow U.S. entities to extract  
4 rare earth minerals could lead to both strengthened bilateral relations and  
5 incentives for peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation; and
- 6 **WHEREAS,** The presence of U.S. civilians extracting rare earth minerals under contract in  
7 Ukraine would provide a deterrent to Russian aggression without the  
8 provocation that U.S. and NATO military troops in Ukraine would create;  
9 now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled endorses the efforts between the  
11 Government of the United States and the Government of Ukraine to  
12 conclude an agreement regarding the extraction of rare earth minerals by  
13 U.S. entities in Ukraine.

*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 proposition by the Board of Directors of the MSDL.*