

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2026 Newton South Winter Festival

Legislation Docket

Updated 2026-01-04: Added Shrewsbury HS legislation.

Welcome to Newton South High School, and welcome to the 2026 Winter Festival! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

Legislative Items for Debate:

- [A Bill to Prohibit Gambling Advertisements on Sports Networks](#) (Sen. Sheehan, Catholic Memorial)
- [A Bill to Regulate AI Deepfakes](#) (Miss Porter's School)
- [A Bill to Repeal the Patriot Act](#) (Natick HS)
- [A Bill to Institute a National Right to Repair](#) (Sen. Henry, Newton South)
- [A Bill to Repeal H.R. 4](#) (Sen. He, Shrewsbury HS)
- **Preliminary Reserve Legislation:** [A Resolution Supporting Athletic Integrity](#) (MSDL)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Lift the Cuba Embargo](#) (MSDL)

Happy New Year!

Great work so far on making this a fantastic season! Here are some updates:

- Thirty competitors are already fully qualified for the State Championship Tournament in April! Remember, you can earn a bid if your cumulative preliminary round rankings place you in the top six or the top half of your chamber. Qualifying for Super Session also earns you a bid.
- Twenty competitors are on the bubble with a single bid – these students need just one more bid to qualify.
- If you haven't earned a bid yet, don't worry—there are still four regular-season tournaments ahead, giving you plenty of chances to qualify for states! Stay motivated by continuing to review your judges' feedback and working on your speeches, questioning, and Presiding Officer roles. Every effort brings you closer to reaching your goals!

Preliminary Reserve Legislation

I've included a piece of reserve legislation in the packet. This may *only* be debated after all student- or school-authored legislation has been completed. In other words, it should be placed fifth on each preliminary chamber's agenda.

Best of luck to everyone preparing for this tournament!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

New Year, New Memes



Dad Jokes ✓
@Dadsaysjokes

“Honey, where’s the skillet?”

Me: in the pan tree!



I mean, it’s important to follow safety protocols... 🍰



Restaurant in Japan tries to make dining alone less awkward by seating patrons with giant stuffed animals...

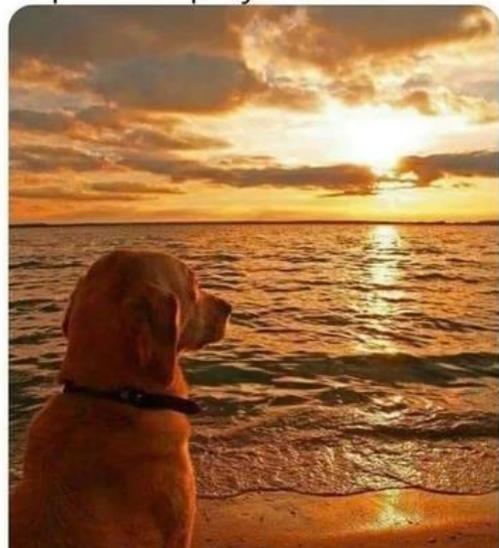


Pun_bible ✓
@thepunbible

"Shall we order dessert?"

"No thanks...I'm stuffed"

When your dog eats your philosophy homework



A Bill to Prohibit Gambling Advertisements on Sports Networks

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** All gambling advertisements are hereby banned on sports networks
3 broadcasted for American audiences.

4 **SECTION 2.** A. “Gambling” shall be defined as the act of wagering money or
5 something of monetary value on the outcome of a game, event, or activity
6 that is primarily determined by chance, including sports betting, online
7 casinos, and similar betting activities.

8 B. “Advertisements” shall be defined as any paid or sponsored form of
9 communication intended to promote, market, or encourage the purchase or
10 use of a product or service through visual, audio, or digital media.

11 C. “Sport networks” shall be defined as any television, cable, satellite, or
12 digital broadcasting platforms whose primary content consists of live or
13 recorded sporting events, sports analysis, commentary, or related
14 programming.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Trade
16 Commission (FTC) shall be responsible for the enforcement of this
17 legislation. Sports networks found in violation of this bill shall be subject
18 to a fine of ten million dollars for each occurrence.

19 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on March 1st, 2026. All laws in conflict
20 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Philip Sheehan, Catholic Memorial.

A Bill to Regulate AI Deepfakes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All media created using deep fake technology must have a visible disclaimer or label that states that it is using deep fake or AI technology. Penalties for the use of deepfake misinformation in these forums shall result in five years in federal prison and no less than a \$100,000 fine.

SECTION 2. This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Miss Porter's School.

A Bill to Repeal the Patriot Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing
2 Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA
3 PATRIOT) Act of 2001 shall terminate on March 1, 2026.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Natick High School.

A Bill to Institute a National Right to Repair

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All manufacturers of consumer electronic devices sold in the United States
2 shall be required to provide consumers and independent repair providers
3 with fair access to the tools, parts, documentation, and software necessary
4 to maintain and repair such devices.

5 **SECTION 2.** Definitions:

6 A. "Consumer electronic devices" shall include, but not be limited to,
7 smartphones, computers, tablets, household appliances, agricultural
8 equipment, and any other electronic products primarily sold for personal
9 or commercial use.

10 B. "Independent repair providers" shall refer to individuals or businesses
11 that are not affiliated with the original manufacturer of the device.

12 C. "Fair access" shall mean access that is provided at reasonable cost,
13 without discriminatory pricing, contractual restrictions, or technological
14 barriers designed to prevent lawful repair.

15 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shall be responsible for enforcing this
16 Act.

17 A. The FTC shall be authorized to investigate violations, issue cease-and-
18 desist orders, and levy civil penalties against manufacturers that fail to
19 comply with the provisions of this Act.

20 B. Manufacturers found in violation may be fined up to \$10,000 per violation,
21 with each day of continued noncompliance constituting a separate
22 violation.

23 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2027

24 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate by June Henry, Newton South High School.

A Bill to Repeal H.R. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

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- SECTION 1.** The Rescissions Act of 2025, or H.R. 4, of the 119th Congress shall be repealed entirely. All cut funding provisioned in H.R. 4 shall be returned to 150% of pre-H.R. 4 levels for each agency in order to reinstate any projects or to rehire employees.
- SECTION 2.** "Cut funding" shall refer to any federal funds that were rescinded by H.R. 4, totaling to around \$9.4 billion. "Each agency," in the context of this legislation, shall refer to the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the U.S. and U.N. Institute of Peace, and any other independent organizations affected by H.R. 4 funding cuts.
- SECTION 3.** Funding of this legislation will come from the Treasury General Account. The Office of Management and Budget shall be tasked with appropriating funds to their respective organization. The Government Accountability Office shall be tasked with conducting quarterly audits of the spending of H.R. 4 cut programs.
- 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 Supporting Athletic Integrity

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Use of performance-enhancing substances was pervasive in professional
2 baseball for nearly three decades; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Such pervasive use set negative examples for young athletes and tainted the
4 integrity of the game; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Both the Baseball Writers Association of America and the Veterans
6 Committee elect members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** These organizations can, through their authority, express their disapproval of
8 performance-enhancing substance use, thereby upholding the integrity of
9 professional baseball; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled expresses its support of members of both
11 the BBWAA and the Veterans Committee in their work to deny Hall of Fame
12 election to retired players who have been credibly accused of participating in
13 or abetting use of performance-enhancing substances.

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 Bill to Lift the Cuba Embargo

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This Act repeals both the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992. Except for transactions with persons and entities specifically named on the Cuba Restricted List by the Department of State, the Office of Foreign Assets Control shall no longer enforce elements of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations that prohibit U.S. persons and entities from spending money in Cuba without a license.

SECTION 2. "Cuba" refers to the sovereign territory administered by the Republic of Cuba, except for the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SECTION 3. The Department of the Treasury shall continue to enforce regulations relative to the Cuba Restricted List, and the Department of Commerce shall continue to enforce existing export controls of dual-use technology and materials.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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