

# Congressional Debate Legislative Docket



2026

John Edie Holiday Debates  
Hosted by  
The Blake School

## **Prelims**

A Bill to Cut Federal Funding From States that Use Euclidean Zoning

A Bill to Mandate Audible Camera Shutter Noises

A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act

The Sudan Aid for Emergency Relief Act (S.A.F.E.R. Act)

A Bill to Expand Broadband Access in America

A Bill to Make Public Transportation Free

A Bill to Standardize Packaging to Decrease Waste

A Bill to Remove Qualified Immunity from Law Enforcement to Protect U.S. Citizens

## **Semifinals**

A Bill to Eliminate Homeschooling in the United States

A Bill to End Cobalt Imports

A Bill to Amend the Constitution to Lower the Voting Age to 16 for Local and Federal Elections

## **Finals**

A Bill to Increase the Minimum Wage

A Bill to Restrict the Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Healthcare

A Bill to Seal Non-Violent Misdemeanor and Federal Convictions to Promote Reintegration

# PRELIMS

# **A Bill to Cut Federal Funding from States that Use Euclidean Zoning**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** Any state that refuses to adopt alternatives to Euclidean Zoning will receive a yearly deduction of 8% from its annual HUD grant until compliance.

**SECTION 2.**

1. An HUD grant is defined as all the federal funds allocated to a state by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. Euclidean Zoning is defined as a type of zoning where land is divided into use-based sections. Each section is designated for only specific functions and developments. Typically, it segregates residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural developments from each other and partitions them into specific districts.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development will oversee the enforcement and collection of fees in this legislation.

**SECTION 4.** This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Mount Vernon High School.*

## **A Bill to Mandate Audible Camera Shutter Noises**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

**SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS** (a) “**Covered device**” shall be defined as any mobile phone or personal data assistant capable of capturing a digital photographic image. (b) “**Camera shutter noise**” shall be defined as an audible sound emitted from a covered device upon the capture of a photographic image.

**SECTION 2: MANDATE** (a) All covered devices manufactured for sale in the United States after the implementation date of this legislation shall be equipped with a camera shutter noise. (b) The camera shutter noise shall not be able to be disabled or silenced by the user.

**SECTION 3: PURPOSE** The purpose of this legislation is to deter the clandestine photography and online exploitation of minors by creating an audible record of when a photograph is being taken.

**SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION** (a) This legislation shall take effect at the start of the 2026 fiscal year. (b) The mandated camera shutter noise shall have a volume of no less than 90 and no more than 100 decibels at the time of sound emission.

**SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES** (a) The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) shall be tasked with the enforcement of this legislation. (b) The penalty for non-compliance shall be a fine of \$30,000, paid by the manufacturer, for each shipment of non-compliant devices.

**SECTION 6: REPEAL OF CONFLICTING LEGISLATION** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Math and Science Academy*

# A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, or better known as the “Jones Act” shall  
2                               hereby be declared null and void upon passage of this legislation.  
3
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   The United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Coast  
5                               Guard, the United States Department of Transportation, and the United  
6                               States Department of Commerce shall be in charge of overseeing this  
7                               legislation  
8
- 9   **SECTION 3.**   This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2028. All laws in conflict with  
10                              this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Des Moines North High School.*

## The Sudan Aid For Emergency Relief Act (S.A.F.E.R. Act)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall officially send aid to Sudan to address the ongoing  
3 humanitarian crisis

4 A. The United States shall allocate \$350 million in humanitarian aid  
5 to the Darfur region of Sudan to mitigate the effects of violence  
6 and human rights abuses.

7 B. Additionally, 10,000 US troops will be sent to Sudan to work with  
8 humanitarian aid groups currently in Sudan to provide protection  
9 and logistical support for international peacekeeping operations

10 C. The US troops will be stationed in Sudan for a 12-month period,  
11 with an option for an additional time period depending on the  
12 situation's progression.

13 D. The US troops will only be permissible to use force in self-defense  
14 or to protect the humanitarian-aid groups.

15 **SECTION 2.** "Humanitarian aid" shall be defined as food, water, shelter, healthcare,  
16 and other similar assistance.

17 "Peacekeeping operations" refer to international missions aimed at  
18 protecting civilians and maintaining peace in conflict zones, such as  
19 United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission In Sudan  
20 (UNITAMS) or the World Food Programme (WTF)

21 **SECTION 3.** The United States Department of State and the United States Department  
22 of Defense will oversee this legislation's implementation.

23 A. Funding for this bill will come from the Department of Defense  
24 budget.

25 B. The Department of State will conduct bimonthly audits to confirm the  
26 proper implementation of this bill.

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

# A Bill to Expand Broadband Access in America

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The Department of Energy will receive 150 billion dollars in order to invest  
2                   within the power grid to expand broadband access to at risk areas. The  
3                   usage of Broadband over power lines (BPL) will be required upon  
4                   development of the power grid within these regions  
5                   A. 100 billion will be given to the loan programs office of the Department  
6                   of Energy to give to private companies in order to achieve the goals of  
7                   section one.  
8                   B. 40 billion will be provided in grants to companies in order to develop  
9                   renewable battery technology or other forms of power storage.  
10                  C. 10 billion will be allocated to utility companies in order to improve the  
11                  safety and reliability of power lines.  
12   **SECTION 2.**   “At risk areas” shall be defined as regions of America lacking access to  
13                   broadband data as defined by the yearly Internet Access Services report  
14                   being conducted by the FCC.  
15                  D. Broadband shall be defined as an internet connection that must be at  
16                  least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload in terms of speed.  
17   **SECTION 3.**   The legislation will be overseen by the Department of Energy and the  
18                   Environmental Protection Agency.  
19   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect on July 01, 2026. All laws in conflict with this  
20                   legislation are hereby declared null and void.  
21  
22  
23  
24

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bloomington Jefferson High School.*



# A Bill to Make Public Transportation Free

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                    **SECTION 1.**        All public transportation in the United States shall be free to  
2                    all constituents who can show proof of a valid US government-issued ID.  
3                    Those without proof shall not be able to use this system.  
4

5                    **SECTION 2.**        Public transportation is defined as any land transportation  
6                    system in the United States that is available for use by the general public.  
7

8                    **SECTION 3.**        Funding for this legislation will be raised by implementing a  
9                    5% income tax on any individuals whose net worth is over 50 million  
10                    dollars. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Department of  
11                    Transportation will oversee the enforcement of this legislation.  
12

13                    **SECTION 4.**        This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2027. All  
14                    laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lakeville North High School.*

# A Bill to Standardize Packaging to Decrease Waste

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   All food producers shall be required to use a standard set of packaging. This
- 2                   packaging shall prioritize reusability (for a minimum of twenty uses), easy
- 3                   reuse and nationwide tracking.
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   A food item shall be defined as any item (offered for sale) that exists for the
- 5                   primary purpose of consumption.
- 6   **SECTION 3.**   The USDA along with the attorney general shall be tasked with the
- 7                   implementation of this legislation.
- 8                   A. The USDA shall do the following:
- 9                         a. The creation of the set of packaging following the priorities
- 10                        listed above
- 11                       b. Ensure companies use the packaging set and start a reuse
- 12                        program to reuse packaging
- 13                       c. Provide exceptions where an unchangeable aspect of the
- 14                        product prevents the use of the standard packaging
- 15                   B. The attorney general (or any civilian) shall pursue penalties no less than
- 16                        ½ the combined value of the products sold in non-compliance. These
- 17                        penalties shall be distributed to all purchasers of the non-compliant
- 18                        products
- 19   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect on Dec. 31, 2026 All laws in conflict with this
- 20                   legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# A Bill to Remove Qualified Immunity from Law Enforcement to Protect U.S. Citizens

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.**       The United States shall henceforth end qualified immunity  
2                   for all Federal and State Law Enforcement, and shall redirect funding from  
3                   the Department of Defense budget to help prepare for potential litigation.

4                   **SECTION 2.**       A. Qualified Immunity shall be defined as a form of legal  
5                   immunity that protects a government official from lawsuits claiming the  
6                   official violated a plaintiff's rights, only allowing suits where officials  
7                   violated a "clearly established" statutory or constitutional right.

8                   B. Federal Law Enforcement shall be defined as any federal organization or  
9                   employee of the United States authorized by law or by a Government  
10                  agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation,  
11                  or prosecution of any violation of Federal criminal law.

12                  C. State Law Enforcement shall be defined as any organization or employee  
13                  of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in  
14                  or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any  
15                  violation of criminal law.

16                  **SECTION 3.**       The Department of Treasury, Department of Justice, and  
17                  Department of Defense shall oversee the implementation of this law, and  
18                  provide funding through a multi billion dollar annual transfer from the  
19                  Department of Defense to the Department of Justice once per fiscal year.

20                  A. The Department of Treasury and Department of Justice shall estimate  
21                  the necessary amount of money per year, and execute the transfer of  
22                  funds from the Department of Defense to the Department of Justice.

23                  B. The Department of Justice will both utilise funding and disperse  
24                  funding to the states through grants in order to address any potential  
25                  litigation. Any excess cost shall come out of the budget of the  
26                  Department of Justice.

27                  **SECTION 4.**    This legislation will take effect on FY 2028. All laws in  
28                  conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

# SEMIFINALS

# A Bill to Eliminate Homeschooling in the United States

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Homeschooling will no longer be recognized as a legal form of education  
3 in the United States.

4 **SECTION 2.** Homeschooling: The practice of educating a child at home, typically by a  
5 parent or a hired tutor, rather than in a traditional public or private school  
6 setting.

7 **SECTION 3.** Once passed the Department of Education will oversee the enforcement  
8 of this legislation.

9 A. Truancy Laws will be enforced on parents who are homeschooling  
10 children.

11 B. An amount of 2.3 billion dollars will be allocated in order to build  
12 programs in schools to help students who have been in a homeschool  
13 setting as well as students who need extra help to be on the same  
14 learning level as their peers.

15 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on June 1st, 2028. All laws in conflict with  
16 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Dowling Catholic.*

# A Bill to End Cobalt Imports

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.**    In an effort to decrease human rights abuses and increase  
2                   domestic mining, the United States shall stop importing raw cobalt.

3                   **SECTION 2.**    The Office of the United States Trade Representative shall  
4                   oversee and Customs and Border Patrol shall enforce this bill. Funding  
5                   previously supporting mining operations will be reallocated to existing EPA  
6                   renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

7                   **SECTION 3.**    This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2028. All laws  
8                   in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

9

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bloomington Kennedy High School.*

# A Bill to Amend The Constitution to Lower The Voting Age to 16 for Local and Federal Elections

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The national voting age shall be lowered to sixteen (16) years old for all eligible individuals voting in local, state, and federal elections, including those for President, Vice President, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Representative.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation:

1. "Federal election" refers to any general, primary, or special election for President, U.S. Senator, or U.S. Representative.
2. "Eligible voter" refers to a U.S. citizen aged sixteen (16) or older who meets all other state-established qualifications and successfully completes the National Youth Civic Literacy Assessment (NYCLA).
3. This bill will be implemented across all 50 states.

SECTION 3. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

1. The Department of Education, in coordination with the FEC, shall develop and administer the National Youth Civic Literacy Assessment (NYCLA) — a standardized evaluation of civic and electoral knowledge.

A. The NYCLA shall be administered to all U.S. citizens during or after the completion of their 10th-grade year.

B. Successful completion of the NYCLA shall be required to register to vote at age sixteen (16).

C. Students who do not pass may retake the assessment as often as once every three (3) months until successful completion.

2. The Department of Justice shall ensure equal access to testing for all eligible youth and prohibit discrimination based on socioeconomic status, education, or background.

3. Fifty (50) million dollars shall be allocated to the Department of Education for the creation, administration, and evaluation of the NYCLA and voter readiness initiatives.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lakeville North High School*



**FINALS**

# A Bill to Increase The Minimum Wage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The federal minimum wage shall be increased to \$15 for all covered  
2                   non-exempt employees working in the United States. It will henceforth be  
3                   indexed to inflation using the Consumer Price Index.
- 4   **SECTION 2.**   The federal minimum wage shall increase steadily every year, starting with  
5                   a \$0.75 increase in the first fiscal year, followed by a \$1 increase every  
6                   subsequent fiscal year until a \$15 minimum wage is reached.
- 7   **SECTION 3.**   The United States Department of Labor shall oversee the implementation  
8                   of this legislation
- 9                   A. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shall be responsible for determining the  
10                  Consumer Price Index used for indexing the minimum wage to inflation
- 11 **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect at the start of FY 2027.
- 12 **SECTION 5.**   All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Math and Science Academy.*

# A Bill to Restrict the Use of Artificial Intelligence technologies in Healthcare

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models are hereby banned from  
3 use in healthcare settings unless a human operator retains decision-making  
4 control at every step of the process. Under no circumstances should the  
5 aforementioned technologies be implemented without proper controls.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Artificial Intelligence” is defined as any technology which makes  
7 autonomous decisions without human input. “Large Language Models” are  
8 defined as any chatbot technology that can process natural language and  
9 autonomously generate a response.

10 **SECTION 3.** Enforcement of this bill will be delegated to the Department of Health and  
11 Human Services. Healthcare entities found to be in violation of this bill will be  
12 fined no less than \$10,000 per violation.

13 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect immediately after passing. All laws in conflict  
14 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

# **A Bill to Seal Non-Violent Misdemeanor and Federal Convictions to Promote Reintegration**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   All federal nonviolent misdemeanor and felony convictions will be  
2                   automatically sealed from an individual's criminal record exactly one year  
3                   after the completion of all sentencing requirements including but not  
4                   limited to: fines, probation, parole, and incarceration.
- 5   **SECTION 2.**   A. A misdemeanor is defined as an offense punishable under criminal law  
6                   by less than 12 months in jail.  
7                   B. A felony is defined as a crime punishable by over 12 months in prison  
8                   C. A Non-violent offense refers to the violation of federal or state law in  
9                   which no violent crime was committed, no weapon was involved, and no  
10                  bodily harm occurred.  
11                  D. Sealed records will be completely inaccessible to the general public,  
12                  including employers and landlords. However, these records will still be  
13                  visible to local law enforcement and federal government agencies in the  
14                  event of a suspected crime.
- 15   **SECTION 3.**   The Department of Justice (DOJ) and The Federal Bureau of Investigations  
16                   (FBI) shall work in coordination with state-level Departments of Corrections  
17                   and Courts to oversee the implementation of this bill.  
18                  A. The Department of Justice (DOJ) will work in conjunction with  
19                  State-level Departments of Corrections and Court to oversee the  
20                  automatic sealing of records.  
21                  B. The criminal records shall still be stored within the National Crime  
22                  Information Center (NCIC) database, accessible only by the Federal  
23                  Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other government agencies.
- 24   **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2027. All laws in conflict with  
25                   this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Bronx High School of Science.*