

# NEW JERSEY DISTRICT NATIONAL SPEECH & DEBATE ASSOCIATION LEGISLATION PACKET - 2026

## February 28, 2026 @ Bridgewater-Raritan HS

All legislation was submitted to a group of coaches and alumni, outside of the NJ district schools, for review and ranking. The top ranked legislation from each individual school was included in the packet, with one additional piece that earned the highest scores while preserving equal distribution among schools. The two highest ranked pieces were selected for House Finals.

The House will participate in two preliminary sessions followed by a final session. The Senate will participate in two or three sessions (pending entry #s and judge allotment).

### **SCHEDULE: (Tentative pending entry #s)**

ROUND I: HOUSE AND SENATE	9:00AM-12:00PM
ROUND II: HOUSE AND SENATE	12:30PM-3:30PM
FINAL ROUND: HOUSE & RD III - SENATE (PENDING ENTRY #S)	4:00PM-7:00PM

### **Qualifier Numbers.**

a. Senate - A district with six or more schools and 10 or more students represented in the **Senate will qualify two senators to the National Senate.** If fewer than six schools or 10 students are represented, no Senate may be seated; however, a district may still conduct a House with sufficient entries. There will be no final round in the Senate

b. House of Representatives - A district must have a minimum of 16 competitors to seat a House of Representatives. Refer to the chart to determine number of House chambers and advancement to the National House (note that the number of students in the far left column is based on participation—speaking or presiding at least once):

**National Tournament Qualification Requirements for House**

<i>Participating Students</i>	<i>Qualifiers</i>
16-29	2
30-58	4
59-87	6
88-116	7
117-145	8
146+	9

### **Time Allowance and Sessions.**

If a district has only one chamber in a division (Senate), the scores from all rounds shall cumulatively determine placement and advancement to the National Tournament; a final round is not required. When planning the schedule, each round must include at least ten minutes per student in a chamber.

The House will have two preliminary rounds plus a final round. Rounds will be structured and scheduled for 10 minutes per participating student. For example, if 15 students are in a chamber, there will be 150 minutes (2 ½ hours of debate time).

**For the House and Senate, there is no base-system.** Students are expected to debate for the duration of the session to afford all students the greatest opportunity to succeed. This may mean that some students may speak more than others.

**Coaches** are permitted to group students for House chambers in Tabroom.com. Window will open on Wednesday, February 21st and close at 5:00PM on Friday, February 23rd.

**Tabulation:** Scorer and parliamentarian ranks are inputted (software automatically considers non-ranked students as ranks of 9 and uses higher parliamentarian ranks as tie-breaks only).

Each individual chamber is tabulated independent of others. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total advance to the next level of competition, employing the following tiebreakers:

1. Judges' preference (or students' preference for the student rank option below)
2. Reciprocal fractions
3. Adjusted cumulative rank total after dropping highest and lowest ranks
4. Reciprocals of adjusted cumulative rank total
5. Rank by the parliamentarian (ranking first to last)

**Artificial Intelligence** - In debate events, generative AI should not be cited as a source; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested. (NSDA Unified Manual p. 107)

The NSDA rules for Congressional Debate follow the legislation in this packet. Please be sure to read prior to the District Congress. Participants are encouraged to review the [NSDA Unified Manual](#) for all other overarching policies and procedures (i.e., use of generative AI, honor code, etc.) prior to the District Tournament.

**Harassment and Discrimination Policy:** *The National Speech & Debate Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The NSDA prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination,*

*whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.*

## HOUSE/SENATE PRELIM: A

# The Regenerative Enhancement for American Production Act (REAP Act)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1           **SECTION 1.**   The United States Federal Government shall hereby  
2           establish a Regenerative Agricultural Implementation Program to promote  
3           soil health, increase agricultural resilience, and restore food security.
- 4           **SECTION 2.**   “Regenerative Enhancement” shall be defined as agricultural  
5           practices that restore soil health, increase biodiversity, and improve  
6           ecosystem function, such as cover cropping, no-till or reduced-till farming,  
7           rotational grazing, compost application, agroforestry, and integrated pest  
8           management.
- 9           A. Each producer must incorporate at least 3 regenerative practices  
10          listed above.
- 11          B. Producers will have 3-5 years to adopt these Regenerative practices.
- 12          **SECTION 3.**   The Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the  
13          Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the IRS, will  
14          be responsible for overseeing the implementation and management of this  
15          legislation.
- 16          A. All agricultural producers will be allocated up to \$40,000 per  
17          producer in transition grants for equipment, seeds, soil testing, and  
18          labor in funding towards regenerative practices.
- 19          B. Each agricultural producer will be receiving up to 5% of their profits  
20          in tax credits for verified regenerative practices.
- 21          C. Any producer that fails to implement regenerative practices within  
22          3-5 years under this Act shall be subject to a civil fine of not less  
23          than \$15,000 per year.

24  
25

**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 Rhea Vasanthavada, Ridge High School.*

## HOUSE/SENATE PRELIM: B

# The Revitalizing Energy through Advancing Clean Technologies (R.E.A.C.T.) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The United States government shall transfer subsidies currently towards  
2 fossil fuels to the production of green technology and expansion thereof  
3 gradually over the course of ten years. Additionally, the federal government  
4 shall allocate \$3 billion a year in grants to fund investments and innovations  
5 in green technology with the goal of developing more affordable, efficient  
6 technology.
- 7 **SECTION 2.** A. Subsidies refer to government assistance or investments into a specific  
8 industry to lower the costs of production or stimulate a greater magnitude of  
9 output.
- 10 B. Green energy refers to any renewable energy source that has the lowest  
11 carbon footprint, such as solar power, wind power, and hydro power. Fossil  
12 fuel refers to any nonrenewable source extracted from Earth and burned for  
13 energy, such as coal, gas, and oil.
- 14 C. Subsidies will be transferred at a rate of ten-percent the original amount  
15 of fossil fuel subsidies per year.
- 16 **SECTION 3.** A. The Department of Energy (DOE) shall be the lead agency in overseeing  
17 the research and innovation, and shall also manage the distribution of  
18 grants.
- 19 B. The Department of the Treasury shall be the lead agency in overseeing  
20 gradual transfer of subsidies away from fossil fuel sources.
- 21 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026. All laws in conflict with this  
22 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alexander DeMarco from Phillipsburg High School .*



## **HOUSE/SENATE PRELIM: C**

# **A Bill to Lessen the Pay Gap Between Women and Men To Ensure Gender Equality in the Workforce**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Large corporations must lessen the pay gap between men and women  
2 through reporting the annual paychecks between the two.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** 'Large corporations' are to be defined as businesses with 100 more  
4 employees, and/or are making more than \$50 million in revenue annually.  
5 'Gender Pay Gap' shall be defined as the difference in average gross hourly  
6 earnings between men and women within the workforce.  
7 'Reports' will consist of the information on employees gender, race, job  
8 title, experience in their job, and hours worked.
- 9 **SECTION 3.** Enforcement of this legislation shall be overseen jointly by the U.S  
10 Department of Labor, and the U.S Equal Employment Opportunity  
11 Commission (EEOC).
- 12 A. The DOL shall require annual wage data reporting and conduct  
13 compliance audits of covered corporations.
- 14 B. The EEOC shall be authorized to initiate investigations without the filing  
15 of individual employee complaints, when a gender based wage gap is  
16 confirmed
- 17 C. Corporations found in violation of this act will be subject to a 6% fine to  
18 their yearly revenue and an Investigation of Audits through the EEOC  
19 alongside assistance from the DOL.
- 20 D. A violation is found if the gap exceeds more than 10%, and cannot be  
21 explained by legitimate factors. Corporations will be given 180 days of  
22 notice and are examined via independent audits. If they cannot prove  
23 the gap is justified they must fix the pay gap disparity, as overseen by  
24 the EEOC.
- 25 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2028.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Fatima Tariq and Zarish Hussain from Cherry Hill High School East.*

# HOUSE/SENATE PRELIM D

## A Bill to Ban Solitary Confinement in Prisons to Prevent Inmate Harm

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Federal agencies and entities will end the use of solitary confinement and  
2 other restrictive housing in federal prisons to protect inmate safety and  
3 health unless a court order is provided. States must also comply to  
4 meaningfully end solitary confinement or receive federal funding cuts.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** A. "Solitary confinement" and "Restrictive Housing" are defined as the  
6 housing of an incarcerated person for long periods of time with minimal to  
7 no human contact.  
8 B. "Inmate" refers to an individual confined to a prison or institution who is  
9 accused, convicted, or sentenced for violations of law.
- 10 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Bureau of Prisons, The Department of Justice, and local prison  
11 control offices shall oversee the implementation of these rules.
- 12 A. Prisons will face a monthly random examination to ensure compliance  
13 with the law. Prisons must also send monthly reports on how long  
14 inmates are isolated for extreme emergencies.
- 15 B. Prisons found in violation of this law could face fines up to \$10,000 per  
16 violation. If violations continue to occur, the facility may be subject to  
17 closure or re-examination.
- 18 C. Any individual who is injured by the violation of this law may take civil  
19 action for emotional or other damages against the appropriate entity.
- 20 D. Inmates can only be isolated for more than 4 hours if there is an order  
21 from the court. Court provided solitary confinement may not exceed 72  
22 consecutive hours unless renewed with a medical evaluation.
- 23 E. Inmates must have a minimum of 4 hours of daily activity.

24 F. States must put in place similar policies and enforcement methods or  
25 receive cuts of not less than 10 percent to funds provided under the  
26 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

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

*Introduced by Senator Netanya Srivatsan of North Brunswick Township High School.*

## HOUSE/SENATE PRELIM E

# A Bill to Support the Syrian Kurds to Counteract Turkish Aggression

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1                   **SECTION 1.**     \$750 million of military aid will be given to the Syrian Kurds  
2                   for the purpose of defending against Turkish aggression. In conjunction, a  
3                   no-fly zone will be established over the Kurdish enclave in Syria.

4                   **SECTION 2.**     “Military aid” shall be defined as money intended for  
5                   weapons and other military infrastructure. A “no-fly zone” shall be defined  
6                   as an area in which aircrafts may not fly. The “Kurdish enclave in Syria” will  
7                   be defined and drawn by the Department of State.

8                   **SECTION 3.**     The Department of State, USAID, and the Department of  
9                   Defense will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this  
10                  legislation.

11                  A. The Departments of Defense and State will advise Kurdish militia  
12                  leaders on how to use the aid.

13                  B. The no-fly zone will be in place for at least 3 years. Every year, the  
14                  Department of State will decide whether Turkish aggression decreases;  
15                  if not, they will continue the no-fly zone for one more year.

16                  **SECTION 4.**     This legislation will take effect immediately upon passage.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Millburn High School*

# HOUSE FINAL A / SENATE PRELIM F

## A Bill to Enhance National Defense in the Arctic

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Defense will allocate \$1,000,000,000 from current DOD  
2 funds to invest in developing national defense strategies, and enhance, and  
3 development new technologies to improve national defense in the Arctic
- 4 **SECTION 2.** “Defense strategies and technologies” are defined as the technology,  
5 weaponry, and government organizations that focus on increasing the  
6 ability to be able to function in an Arctic environment.
- 7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense (DOD), Defense Advanced Research Projects  
8 Agency (DARPA) shall be involved in overseeing the implementation of this  
9 bill.
- 10 A. The DOD will allocate \$1,000,000,000 to DARPA to develop new Arctic  
11 technologies
- 12 B. The US military will increase engagement with other Arctic nations in  
13 unilateral programs such as the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable  
14 (ASFR)
- 15 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect immediately after passage. All laws in  
16 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jayson Pai of Hunterdon Central Regional High School.*

## HOUSE FINAL B / SENATE PRELIM G

# A Bill to Reform Law Enforcement Officer Pension to Prevent Abuse

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Law enforcement pension benefits shall be reformed so that:

3 A. Pension benefits of law enforcement officers shall be calculated exclusively based  
4 on an officer's base salary.

5 B. Any law enforcement officer convicted of a felony shall have their pension benefits  
6 promptly revoked.

7 C. This restriction is intended to increase transparency and accountability and  
8 eliminate abuse and manipulation.

9 **SECTION 2.** A base salary is defined as the contracted annual wage, not including overtime  
10 pay, bonuses, holiday pay, or special duty compensation.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice, through the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and  
12 the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), shall oversee the  
13 enforcement of this legislation.

14 **SECTION 4.** Penalties for violations of this legislation shall include:

15 A. For individual officers: repayment of fraudulently earned overtime/pension and  
16 forfeiture of pension benefits accrued after the time of misconduct.

17 B. For agencies: A civil fine of \$50,000 per infraction.

18 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect 90 days after passage. All laws in conflict with  
19 this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Evelyn Xu of Ridge High School.*

# HOUSE FINAL C / SENATE PRELIM H

## A Bill to Ensure Access to Legal Counsel During Immigration Inspections

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

**SECTION 1.** The Department of Homeland Security shall guarantee that any individual detained for immigration inspection has the right to consult with an attorney within one hour of the inspection process beginning and throughout the duration of the inspection.

If the individual does not have counsel, the Department of Homeland Security shall provide access to a list of available free immigration attorneys or legal service organizations prior to any continued inspection or questioning.

**SECTION 2.** “Counsel” shall be defined as an attorney in good standing with any U.S. state or territory bar, or an individual accredited by the Attorney General to represent people in immigration matters.

“Covered individual” shall be defined as any person subject to secondary or deferred inspection at an immigration or customs checkpoint.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security shall oversee the enforcement of this policy.

A. DHS officers may not accept Form 1-407 (Record of Abandonment of Lawful Permanent Resident Status) from lawful permanent residents

unless they have been given a reasonable opportunity to consult with  
a counsel, unless the individual waives that right in writing.

**SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect 180 days after its passage

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sen. Dylan Espinoza of Philipsburg High School*