

Massachusetts Speech and Debate League

2025 Holly Festival

Legislation Docket

Welcome to Natick High School, and welcome to the 2025 Holly Festival! Enclosed, please find the following legislation and special information.

Updated December 14, 2025, 7:35pm

I've added items from Catholic Memorial and Xaverian Brothers HS. I've also removed the Resolution Supporting Athletic Integrity. (We have plenty of student legislation to debate.) I may include it in a future docket.

This will be the final update to the docket.

Legislative Items for Debate:

- [A Bill to Insulate the Bureau of Labor Statistics from Political Interference](#) (Sen. Lightfoot, Catholic Memorial)
- [A Bill to Combat Artificially-Generated Propaganda](#) (Sen. Adams, Milton Academy)
- [A Bill to Fund CRISPR-Based Autism Research to Advance Neurodevelopmental Studies](#) (Natick HS)
- [A Bill to Revitalize Vacant Spaces to Increase Affordable Housing](#) (Sen. Shrestha, Newton South HS)
- [A Bill for Congress to Amend Stock Standards for Honesty \(CASSH\)](#) (Sen. Hoxha, Revere HS)
- [An Amendment to Ban Excessive Political Donations in State and Federal Elections](#) (Sen. Thomas, Shrewsbury HS)
- [A Bill to Protect Our Allergy Community](#) (Sen. Marjani, Xaverian Brothers HS)
- **Super Session:** [A Bill to Impose Export Controls on AI Software](#) (MSDL)

Mid-Season Updates

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the season! It feels like just yesterday we were launching our novice delegates at Sharon High School. Throughout the season, we have seen exceptionally large participation numbers, and it's exciting to witness the ongoing growth of Congressional Debate. Honestly, I did not anticipate this surge in popularity before the season began.

- Continue Attending Tournaments and Earning State Bids: Each tournament presents an opportunity to move closer to the State Championship in April. Remember, you'll need two state bids to qualify outright. You can check your current bid status [online](#).
- Write and Submit Legislation: This event is your platform to shape the debate topics. Don't hesitate to submit one or two drafts before finalizing your legislation. I am always available to offer feedback on both the content and formatting to help ensure your proposals are ready for the docket.
- Consider Trying Out for Presiding Officer: If you haven't yet explored this role, being a Presiding Officer is a rewarding leadership experience. The skills you gain running a meeting are invaluable in many aspects of life, and this is a great opportunity to practice and develop those abilities.

Holiday Break Reading Recommendation

I strongly recommend that everyone read this book while you're on break – it's a very easy and quick read, and it can help you in both Congressional Debate and your life outside of the activity. This book is a classic:

Carnegie, Dale. [How to Win Friends and Influence People](#) (Pocket Books, 1998).

Every tournament counts!

Best of luck to everyone preparing for this tournament!

Best regards,

Joe Bowden
MSDL Chair of Congress

Santa Brought Memes This Year



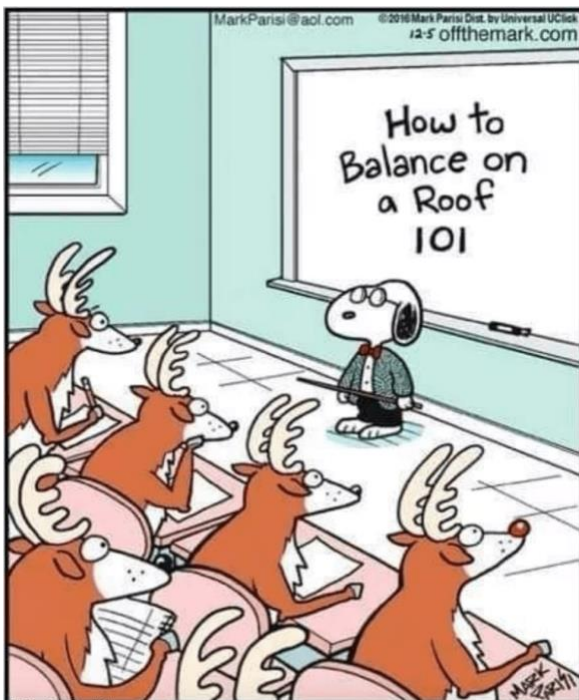
Dad Jokes
@Dadsaysjokes

Facebook never fails to amaze me



Why do you have a framed picture of your ceiling fan?

December 2 at 6:01 PM · Like · 3



A Bill to Insulate the Bureau of Labor Statistics from Political Interference

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics shall be appointed by
3 the President and confirmed by the Senate for a single fixed term of six (6)
4 years, which shall be staggered so that no term expires during the same
5 calendar year as a presidential inauguration.

6 **SECTION 2.** The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics may be removed by
7 the President only for cause, including neglect of duty, malfeasance, or
8 incapacity. The President shall provide written justification to Congress
9 for any such removal.

10 **SECTION 3.** No officer or employee of the Executive Office of the President, nor any
11 cabinet-level official outside of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall
12 review, alter, delay, or otherwise influence the findings, methodologies, or
13 release schedules of any Bureau of Labor Statistics report prior to its
14 public release.

15 **SECTION 4.** The Bureau of Labor Statistics shall receive direct annual appropriation
16 from Congress, independent of the Department of Labor. The Bureau of
17 Labor Statistics shall be responsible for the implementation and
18 enforcement of this legislation, in coordination with the appropriate
19 committees of Congress.

20 **SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2026. All laws in conflict
21 with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Will Lightfoot, Catholic Memorial

A Bill to Combat Artificially-Generated Propaganda

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** All corporations, individuals, trusts, or organizations that
2 manage and operate a generative artificial intelligence model must receive
3 an operating license from the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force
4 (NCIJTF).

5 **SECTION 2.** All license-holders must keep a publicly available digital
6 record of all artificially-generated images, audio, and text produced by the
7 generative artificial intelligence models they operate.

8 **SECTION 3.** “Artificially-generated” shall describe any text, visual, or
9 audio content produced by a machine-learning model based on patterns
10 within a training dataset.

11 **SECTION 4.** All license-holders must take all reasonable steps to
12 superimpose clearly legible translucent watermarks reading “ARTIFICIAL
13 CONTENT” over all artificially-generated audio and video content
14 produced by their models. Exceptions can be secured at the discretion of
15 the NCIJTF.

16 **SECTION 5.** Any license-holder found in violation of disclosure or
17 watermarking requirements, or any proprietor of a generative artificial
18 intelligence model who fails to apply for a license, shall have their
19 generative artificial intelligence servers immediately seized by the
20 Department of Justice and shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$10,000
21 and a prison term of up to 16 months.

22 **SECTION 6.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of
23 Justice shall be tasked with the enforcement of this legislation. This
24 legislation will take effect on August 10, 2026. All laws in conflict with this
25 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

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A Bill to Fund CRISPR-Based Autism Research to Advance Neurodevelopmental Studies

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The National Institute of Health (NIH) shall establish a \$500
2 million dollar grant program to fund CRISPR based gene regulation
3 research related to Autism Spectrum Disorder using non-germline, somatic
4 cell methods only.

5 **SECTION 2.** A. “CRISPR-based gene regulation” refers to tools such as
6 CRISPR-Cas9, CRISPR-dCas9, CRISPR activation (CRISPRa), or CRISPR
7 interference (CRISPRi) used to modulate gene expression, not to alter
8 germline DNA.

9 B. “Somatic-cell research” refers to experimentation limited
10 exclusively to postnatal cells, tissues, or model organisms that do not
11 transmit genetic changes to offspring.

12 C. “Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)” is a complex
13 developmental condition involving persistent challenges with social
14 communication, restricted interests and repetitive behavior.

15 **SECTION 3.** A. The NIH shall administer and oversee this grant program
16 through the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National
17 Human Genome Research Institute

18 B. All funded research must comply with existing federal
19 rules prohibiting germline genetic modification. Any violation will result in
20 an immediate suspension of funds and potential fines determined by the
 NIH.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2027. All laws in
conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Natick High School.

A Bill to Revitalize Vacant Spaces to Increase Affordable Housing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The U.S. Federal Government shall allocate \$2 billion to a federal grant
2 program to repurpose vacant spaces into mixed-use developments. Mixed-
3 use developments must follow the requirement of having at least 30% of
4 total units designated for affordable housing units with a minimum
5 requirement of at least 20 affordable housing units.

6 **SECTION 2.** “Vacant space” shall be defined as a plot of land or property that has been
7 determined to be either abandoned, unsafe, or uninhabitable by code
8 enforcement inspection, consistent with the State or local law definition of
9 abandoned property and following more than 90 days of inaction from the
10 property owner.

11 “Mixed-use developments” shall be defined as multi-purpose
12 developments that require affordable housing units, but also may include
13 business units, commercial office spaces, and other amenities.

14 “Affordable housing” shall be defined as housing for which the tenant pays
15 no more than 30% of their gross income for housing costs. Households
16 earning less than 50% of the area median income (AMI) would be eligible
17 to apply for rental units in these developments.

18 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall be tasked
19 with the enforcement of this legislation.

20 A. Local governments, nonprofit housing organizations, and private
21 developers are eligible for this grant program. HUD shall determine the
22 eligibility of organizations for the grant program by running background
23 checks, as well as reviewing applications.

24 B. They shall run fiscal audits every six months to determine the effectiveness
25 of funding.

26 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect in FY 2027.

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

28

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Lukas Shrestha, Newton South High School.

A Bill for Congress to Amend Stock Standards for Honesty (CASSH)

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Amend Subchapter III of Chapter 131 of title 5, U.S.C. to
3 include:

4 “Members of Congress or their family members may not own an interest
5 in or trade any stock, securities, or trusts, except for blind trusts.
6 Violators shall be fined \$5 million for every infraction.”

7

8 **SECTION 2.** A) “Family members” shall be defined as immediate family
9 members, spouses, and dependents.

10

11 **SECTION 3.** Congress shall oversee the implementation of this bill and
12 appropriately amend the U.S.C. The Securities and Exchange Commission
13 (SEC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) shall oversee fines and cases.

14

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Sala Hoxha, Revere High School.

An Amendment to Ban Excessive Political Donations in State and Federal Elections

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

SECTION 1: All “Super PACs” are hereby proscribed. The limit for individual donations to gubernatorial candidates will not exceed \$15,000 per election cycle; the limit for individual donations to state legislature candidates will not exceed \$10,000 per election cycle. The combined limit an individual can contribute to all federal candidates, PACs, and party committees will not exceed \$40,000 per year. Corporate to Candidate, Union to Candidate, PAC to Candidate, and State Party to Candidate limits in state elections can be up to the same amount as individual limits.

SECTION 2: A “Super PAC” shall be defined as an independent-expenditure-only political committee.

SECTION 3: The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Anushka Thomas, Shrewsbury High School.

A Bill to Protect Our Allergy Community

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Requiring all food manufacturers selling food products in the United
2 States containing cross contamination with nuts to put cross contamination warnings
3 on their labels and include said warnings in their advertisements of said products.

4 **SECTION 2.** Definitions:

- 5 A. Nuts are to be defined as peanuts and tree nuts under the Major Allergens
6 Recognition by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).
7 B. Companies are to be defined as any form of business organization that engages in
8 business and/or commercial activity for profit.

9 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade
10 Commission (FTC) will oversee the implementation of this bill.

11 **SECTION 4.** Failure to comply with proper labeling will result in the following:

- 12 A. First offense will be classified as a misdemeanor and a \$250,000 fine will be enforced
13 by the FDA on companies if death/injury is not involved.
14 B. Second offense will be classified as a felony and a \$500,000 fine will be enforced by
15 the FDA along with product recall from store shelves.
16 C. Third offense will also be classified as a felony and the company will face court-
17 supervised operations, long-term injunctions, and fines determined by the
18 Department of Justice.

19 **SECTION 5.** Failure to comply with proper advertisement will be classified as false
20 advertisement under the FTC and will result in the following:

- 21 A. \$52,000 fine on company enforced by the FTC per violation.
22 B. Cancel all advertisements (ads, commercials, and billboards) until the product
23 receives the correct advertisement.
24 C. Each specific misdemeanor violation fine will be determined based on each U.S.
25 state's laws.

26 **SECTION 6.** This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026. All laws in
27 conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Senator Marjani of Xaverian Brothers High School.

A Bill to Impose Export Controls on AI Software

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** Whoever exports, re-exports, or transfers AI Software or Dual-Use Technology to a Controlled Entity without a license issued by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) shall be fined up to \$1 million and / or imprisoned not more than 20 years.
- SECTION 2.** “AI Software” is defined as any computer program, algorithm, or model weights designed for artificial intelligence applications, including machine learning frameworks with capabilities exceeding 10^{26} floating-point operations per second for training or inference. “Dual-Use Technology” means AI Software that has both civilian and military applications, as determined by the Secretary of Commerce. “Controlled Entity” is defined as any foreign government, entity, or individual on the Entity List maintained by the BIS, or designated under Section 126.1 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) as a country of concern.
- SECTION 3.** The Department of Commerce, through the Bureau of Industry and Security, shall be responsible for enforcing this legislation. The BIS shall deny export licenses if it finds an unacceptable risk of enhancing the military capabilities of a Controlled Entity, contributing to human rights abuses, or circumventing existing hardware controls.
- 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 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.