



FLORIDA CIVICS &
DEBATE INITIATIVE
Building GREAT Citizens

October 21, 2023

Legislation Packet

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101. A BILL TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL SPENDING ON SEA EXPLORATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

- 1 SECTION 1. To increase the national budget to support the NOAA Ocean Exploration,
2 the Ocean Exploration and Research Program, and the Ocean and Coastal
3 Mapping Program.
- 4 SECTION 2. A. NOAA- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in charge
5 of funding projects, such as oceanic exploration, for the U.S.A.).
6 B. National Budget- annual plan for money the government will spend
7 to achieve certain goals.
8 C. Ocean Exploration Projects- projects to further our marine knowledge
9 and explore the unexplored regions of the sea.
- 10 SECTION 3. The NOAA will oversee the spending and distribution of this money to
11 the many programs it funds.
- 12 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect FY 2024.
- 13 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Norman Land, Pace High School

102. A BILL TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY PAPER-BASED BALLOTS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

- 1 SECTION 1. Each United States citizen that is of age to vote must vote on
2 paper-based ballots.
- 3 SECTION 2. To fulfill this requirement every state voting center must provide a
4 paper-based ballot without the use of computer-based ballots. This will
5 include all elections, for example: general elections, primary elections,
6 special elections, Presidential elections, and Electoral college elections.
- 7 SECTION 3. The Federal Election Commission must oversee each state to ensure
8 compliance. The penalties for not meeting this requirement is fine to the
9 state for \$500,000.
- 10 SECTION 4. This bill is required to be effective by January 1st of 2024.
- 11 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Reese Akins, Seaside Neighborhood School

103. A BILL TO REQUIRE DNA EVIDENCE FOR DEATH PENALTY SENTENCING

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. No convicted criminal shall be sentenced to the death penalty unless
2 DNA evidence linking the criminal to the crime comprises a central
3 element to conviction.

4 SECTION 2. The judge overseeing the case shall determine if DNA comprises a central
5 element to the conviction.

6 A. Any inmate currently sentenced to death and awaiting the
7 completion of that sentence whose conviction was not significantly
8 predicated on DNA evidence shall have their sentence commuted to
9 life in prison. District attorneys with jurisdiction in the court where
10 the crime was originally tried shall be responsible for making
11 determinations and shall have one year from the passage of this
12 legislation to do so.

13 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice.

14 A. Judges found in violation of this legislation shall be subject to
15 impeachment.

16 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Ashton Carter, Sims Middle School

104. A BILL TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. The federal minimum wage for nonexempt workers shall be raised from
2 \$7.25 to \$9.00.

3 SECTION 2. Minimum wage is defined as a base level of pay that employers are
4 required to pay certain covered employees. Nonexempt is defined as
5 workers who are entitled to earn at least the federal minimum wage and
6 qualify for overtime pay.

7 SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Labor will oversee this bill.

8 A. The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) will be the division that enforces
9 this bill.

10 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on March 2, 2024.

11 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
South Walton High School

105. THE FIREARM AND WEAPONS SAFETY ACT OF 2024

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

- 1 SECTION 1. Mandatory mental health checks every 2 years will be established to use
2 a firearm or weapon, all owners of firearms must have proper training to
3 carry them, firearms are limited based on criminal record, and children
4 caught using a firearm or weapon to harm another will be taken into
5 custody.
- 6 SECTION 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to protect all citizens from this threat
7 that guns pose to this nation in a way that benefits all and doesn't take
8 away from the freedom of the citizens, but stands for the general welfare
9 of this state and all who dwell in it.
- 10 SECTION 3. A. All citizens who wish to obtain and carry a firearm or weapon must
11 have a mental health check up every 2 years by a certified psychiatrist
12 approved by the state of Florida. This will only cost the citizen \$20,
13 the rest will be provided by the state.
- 14 B. If a citizen wishes to carry a firearm, they must complete a 40- hour
15 training program led by Florida law enforcement to obtain a license
16 to carry a firearm. To be eligible to take the course, you must pass a
17 thorough background check. This was previously a law until HB 543
18 was passed and then enacted on July, 1 2023. Now it's optional to
19 have training. This will only cost the citizen \$20, the rest will be
20 provided by the state.
- 21 C. All citizens are allowed to have weapons in their home for protection,
22 but they must meet all the requirements to carry a weapon in public.
23 Any citizen who has committed a felony or 3 or more misdemeanors
24 is prohibited from carrying a weapon. However, anyone who commits
25 a felony is prohibited from owning a firearm or weapon.
- 26 D. Any individual under the age of 18, who uses a firearm or weapon
27 against another person that is not protected under the "Stand your
28 ground law" will be taken into state custody where they will have to
29 go through a mental health evaluation to determine whether they are
30 stable enough to go to a foster home. If they fail the mental health
31 evaluation, they will be sent to a state facility and will remain there
32 until they are cleared by a certified psychiatrist. However, under no

33 circumstance is the child allowed to live with their parent(s) or
34 guardian(s) that were responsible for the child at the time of the
35 incident. They will have visiting rights and the child will be placed at a
36 state facility of the parent or guardian's choice.

37 E. The funding will come from the new federal grant that Biden offered
38 in March of 2023. Florida did not apply to it, so the Legislatures will
39 need to outline the plan they intend to enact and then request the
40 federal grant. The rest of the funds will be \$1 billion from the
41 unallocated fund in Florida's 23-24 budget.

42 SECTION 4. A. If any citizen is found carrying a firearm without a recent mental
43 health check will face a fine of \$3,000 and will be tried in a court of
44 law. Their weapon(s) will be confiscated until they have obtained a
45 recent mental health check.

46 B. If a citizen is found carrying a firearm without taking the 40- hour
47 training program will be fined \$3,000 and will be tried in court of law.
48 Their weapon(s) will be confiscated until the 40-hour training
49 program has been completed.

50 C. If a citizen who has been convicted of a felony or 3 or more
51 misdemeanors is found carrying a firearm or weapon outside of their
52 home, they will be tried in a court of law and their mandatory
53 minimum sentence is 3 years in prison.

54 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect March 31, 2024. All other laws in conflict with
55 this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianna High School

106. A BILL TO OUTLAW THE “PINK TAX” TO CREATE FAIR PRICES AND INCREASE GENDER EQUALITY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

- 1 SECTION 1. Federally outlaw the Pink Tax in order to achieve gender equality and
2 create fair prices no matter the gender of the customer
- 3 SECTION 2. The Pink Tax will be defined as the tendency of products and services
4 targeted to women being more expensive than identical products
5 targeted to men
- 6 SECTION 3. The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) will oversee enforcement through
7 punishments of corporations who uphold or support the pink tax by
8 raising the price of their feminine products
- 9 A. The FTC may fine up to \$50,000 based on the size of the corporation
10 violating the outlaw
- 11 SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect within the next fiscal year
- 12 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Crestview High School

Tier 2 Legislation

Chambers must debate all items in Tier 1 before moving onto Tier 2.

201. A BILL TO ENFORCE FOUR YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE AS A QUALIFICATION TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** To become the president of the United States of America, along with the
2 original qualifications, one must serve a full four years of service in any
3 branch of the U.S. military at any point in their life before they declare their
4 candidacy for president.

5 **SECTION 2.** The term "candidacy" as used in line 4 can be defined as being considered
6 for a particular position or status, in this case, U.S. presidency. Moreover,
7 the original qualifications mentioned in line 2 refers to the three original
8 requirements for running for president including being a natural-born U.S.
9 citizen, being at least 35 years of age, and having been a U.S. resident for at
10 least 14 years before running. Lastly, the phrase "any branch of the U.S.
11 military" as mentioned in lines 2 and 3 refers to the United States Air Force,
12 Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, as recognised by
13 the United States Government.

14 **SECTION 3.** These qualifications will be overseen and therefore enforced by the United
15 States Senate, who will check the credibility of the candidate as well as
16 checking for falsified records of military service. If these record are falsified,
17 the following repercussions will ensue:

- 18 a. The runner will be disqualified from running in any future
19 government elections
- 20 b. The runner will face fraud charges pressed by the U.S.
21 Senate.

22 **SECTION 4.** Candidates for the 2028 Presidential election must fulfill these
23 qualifications by November 2, 2028. All laws in conflict with this legislation
24 are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Seaside Neighborhood School

202. A BILL TO ENFORCE A TAX ON LARGE CORPORATIONS CARBON EMISSIONS

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1.** Each U.S. company, after January 1, 2024, that emits more than 66144 tons
3 of carbon from the operation of their company, shall be taxed 0.35% of
4 their profits that resulted in the emission of carbon. To be used to fund
5 programs to reduce carbon emissions.

6 **SECTION 2.** The amount specified in line 2, was determined by the average carbon
7 emission of an individual in the U.S. which is an estimated 16 tons,
8 multiplied by the average number of the largest corporation of America (
9 which can be defined by corporations that employ 500 or more
10 individuals), which is 4,143. Money collected from the tax will go towards
11 programs to reduce carbon emissions and pollution on U.S. soil. Programs
12 to reduce carbon emission as used in line 5 can be defined as programs
13 with a goal to decrease the emission of carbon and effect of of climate
14 change in the U.S. , Such as the construction of technologies to generate
15 clean energy (including wind turbines, solar panels, and hydroelectric
16 dams), and the innovation and research on the reduction of climate change
17 in the U.S..

18 **SECTION 3.** This tax will be enforced and collected through the internal revenue
19 service bureau of the Department of the Treasury, as they would with the
20 other corporate tax codes. Failure to pay or underpayment of this tax may
21 result in being charged with tax fraud.

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1,2024. All laws in conflict with
23 This legislation is hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Seaside Neighborhood School

203. A BILL TO ENSURE THAT TEACHERS ARE PAID A LIVABLE AND COMPETITIVE SALARY THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREER

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 SECTION 1. The purposes of this bill are to ensure elementary and secondary school
2 teachers earn a livable wage and are compensated with a career based
3 competitive salary that accounts for national inflation. The Federal Board
4 of Education will provide supplemental funding to states to be used
5 specifically for teacher’s salaries.

6 SECTION 2. Elementary and secondary school teacher shall be defined as any
7 educator working at a public, or charter institution of learning for minors
8 below the college or university level. Livable wage shall be considered a
9 starting annual base salary of not less than \$60,000; with increases
10 regularly throughout a teacher’s career that stay ahead of the rate of
11 annual inflation.

12 SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of education will oversee enforcement along with
13 specific enforcement of this mechanism.
14 Teacher salaries shall be reviewed by the department every three years.
15 Raises and base salary amounts will be adjusted based on the rate of
16 inflation during the review period.

17 SECTION 4. This legislation will be enacted immediately upon passage of this
18 legislation.

19 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Avie LaFontaine. Sims Middle School

204. A BILL TO BAN PLASTIC STRAWS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

- 1 SECTION 1. The use of plastic straws by restaurants and other providers of prepared
2 meals is hereby banned.
- 3 SECTION 2. Any establishment found to be in violation of this legislation shall be
4 fined \$100 for each violation. Should the total amount fined to a single
5 establishment ever exceed \$10,000, that establishment shall lose its
6 license(s) to sell food and/or beverages.
- 7 SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the Food and Drug Administration.
- 8 SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2023
- 9 SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Brylee Daffern, Sims Middle School

205. A BILL TO HIGHLIGHT THE RISKS THAT ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS FACE AROUND THE WORLD

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

1 WHEREAS, Around the world, environmental defenders face persecution from the
2 government, private sector, and criminal actors, including restrictions on
3 free speech and assembly, criminalization, civil lawsuits, surveillance,
4 harassment, verbal, cyber, and physical intimidation, sexual assault, and
5 targeted murder;

6 WHEREAS, At least 1,733 environmental defenders have been reported killed since
7 2012, with at least 200 killed in 2021;

8 WHEREAS, Fossil fuel companies, mining operations, agribusiness plantations, and
9 mega dams are major causes of environmental destruction and are being
10 used to drive communities from their homes and their lands;

11 WHEREAS, Civil society is, and should be, a powerful voice for individuals
12 experiencing and at risk from the effects of worsening climate chaos,
13 including Indigenous Peoples whose ancestral rights, lives, traditional
14 lands, and cultural practices are disproportionately threatened by climate
15 chaos: now, therefore, be it
16

17 RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled urges the United States to consult and
18 cooperate in good faith with Indigenous Peoples who are concerned with
19 the environment in order to obtain free, prior and informed consent,
20 without coercion, prior to the approval of any project affecting the lands,
21 territories, religious practices or resources of such Indigenous Peoples;

22 FURTHER
23 RESOLVED, that Congress here assembled calls for responsible conduct of United
24 States companies, financial institutions and investors in relation to the
25 freedoms and rights of Indigenous communities and other environmental
26 defenders, particularly in agribusiness, fossil fuel, mining and
27 hydroelectricity sectors; and
28 Requests that the Department of State establish a position focused on
29 environmental defenders within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights
30 and Labor.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Emilyn Tyson, Sims Middle School

206. A BILL TO UPDATE THE CLEAN AIR ACT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1.** The Clean Air Act Of 1970 shall be updated to include better safety measures for wildfires, deforestation and more accurate laws for the owners of fire licenses.
- SECTION 2.** People should have tests and have the full ability to put out a wildfire and attend training, for which classes should be provided in person or online.
- SECTION 3.** People attempting to light fires without training or license should receive a ticket then a date to go get training done
- A. Jail time should be enforced if wildfire starts and doer does not have a license.
- SECTION 4.** Most of this funding will be from ticket revenue., but we should increase corporate income tax to companies that contribute to deforestation like construction companies that clear trees for building.
- SECTION 5.** This legislation will take effect on July 1st, 2024
- SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
South Walton High School

207. A BILL TO INCREASE DEVELOPMENT IN SPACE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The bill to increase development in space would provide funding for NASA to explore other galaxies.

SECTION 2. Exploring galaxies outside of the Milky Way would give us a better understanding of what else is out there or other planets that we can potentially move to when Earth starts to break down

SECTION 3. NASA and the department of treasury will oversee enforcement of this bill

SECTION 4. To fund the bill the US government will increase income taxes on corporations. We will increase the marginal income tax rate for companies earning more than 1 billion dollars in profits from 15% to 17%.

SECTION 5. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2024

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
South Walton High School

208. A BILL TO ABOLISH THE DRAFT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Selective Service System will be abolished, thus no longer requiring men between the ages of 18-25 to register for the draft.

SECTION 2. The United States Armed Forces will continue a volunteer based military force. This will strip the power to call for a draft from both the Congress and the President.

SECTION 3. The Selective Service System will be defunded by the next fiscal year. All funds originally dedicated to the SSS will be relocated to the defense budget.

SECTION 4. This bill will begin to be enacted in the fiscal year 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Fort Walton Beach High School

209. A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE RESTORING ARTIST PROTECTION ACT

WHEREAS, Musical artists within the United States are having their lyrics used as evidence against them in court despite the fact that a vast majority of them have claimed falsehoods in their songs.

WHEREAS, Many celebrities who have created songs about events that did not occur have been put on trial with blatant lies being used as concrete evidence against them.; and

WHEREAS, This delegitimizes our legal system when fallacious evidence can be analyzed in the likeness of truth therefore omitting justice in the process.; and

WHEREAS, Without this act we are sending innocent individuals to lengthy sentences on the basis of fallacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled endorse the Restoring Artist Protection act.

Respectfully submitted,
Fort Walton Beach High School

210. A BILL TO ESTABLISH A POLICY OF NATIONAL NAP TO PROVIDE A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. National Nap Time will be officially nationally recognized, and will take place every day between 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm. This will be a time which citizens will be allotted, where they may take a break from work, school, or other daily activities to take a nap.

SECTION 2. This policy will require employers and educators to provide nap time between the allotted times, if requested by the employee or student in question, with the exception of urgent occupations such as first responders or emergency caregivers.

SECTION 3. This policy will be overseen by the US Department of Labor, as well as the US Department of Education. Employers and educators who refuse to provide nap time can be charged a fine of \$200, as well as whatever other damages which the court sees to be fair, which will be paid to the student or employee who was refused nap time.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2025. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,
Fort Walton Beach High School