



HCRHS WINTER INVITATIONAL

2025 Hunterdon Central Winter Invitational Congress Legislation

Guidelines

- 9 of the bills are to be used for the two preliminary sessions.
- 4 of the bills are reserved for the final session.
- To promote an accessible pre-tournament docket conversation, please use [this document](#) for your discussion. The document will be monitored over the next week.

Preliminary Sessions

1. A Resolution to Reinstate Japanese Army to Defend itself Against the Republic of China
2. A Bill to Ban Microplastics in Consumer Products to Protect Marine Life
3. A Bill to Increase School Security Funding to Protect Students
4. A Bill to Regulate the Use of Autonomous Vehicles in Commercial Transportation
5. The Green Transition Act
6. A Resolution to Expand Membership of the USMCA to Countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean
7. The S.A.D. Resolution: Saudi Arabian Defense Resolution
8. A Bill to Implement a Carbon Tax
9. A Bill to Prevent Employers from Using Employees' Social Media Presence Against Them

A Resolution to Reinstate Japanese Army to Defend itself Against the Republic of China

1 **WHEREAS,** Tensions between the Chinese Republic and Japan have risen tremendously.

2 **WHEREAS,** China poses a great strategic challenge to the Pacific forefront and Japan
3 outlines plans to develop a counterstrike capability funded by record defense
4 spending. Incapable since the 1947 Constitution of Article 9, Japan has been
5 unable to establish a sufficient army force that is capable of defending itself
6 in-case of regional/international warfare. Reinterpretation of this article has
7 evolved due to security challenges.

8 **WHEREAS,** By Chinese forces growing military presence in the East China Sea and South
9 China Sea, such as frequent incursions into Japanese territorial waters
10 around the Senkaku Islands pose significant threats to Japan's sovereignty.
11 Japanese reinstating will both provide a defensive and offensive
12 improvement of maintaining peace and stability.

13 **WHEREAS,** Now, by providing Japan *10 billion dollars* to reinstate its army for its
defending and offensive capabilities after proving themselves of sustaining a
fair, pacifist, and democratic society. A third of funding will go towards
military infrastructure and training personnel. 10% will go towards research
and development. Regular audits will be conducted biannually to review
expenditures and ensure compliance within the budget.

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled allow the Japanese nation to sustain an
army with defensive arms.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the USAID (*United States Agency for International Development*) will
oversee this legislation and make sure that distribution, usage, and
assistance is given to the nation of Japan. They will do so by providing
humanitarian assistance, capacity building, and conflict prevention.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Matthew Mendez from Elizabeth High School

A Bill to Ban Microplastics in Consumer Products to Protect Marine Life

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The use of microplastics in all consumer products shall be banned in the United States.

SECTION 2. Microplastics are defined as plastic particles smaller than five millimeters in size that are intentionally added to products, including, but not limited to personal care items, cleaning products, cosmetics, clothing and textiles, and liquids.

SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall oversee the enforcement of this legislation. The EPA will develop and implement regulations for the detection and restriction of microplastics in consumer products. Furthermore, the EPA will conduct regular inspections, impose fines starting at \$10,000 per infraction, and mandate product recalls on manufacturers found in violation of this ban.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Elizabeth High School.

A Bill to Increase School Security Funding to Protect Students

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. \$3 billion shall be allocated in grant funding to enhance school security measures for public schools.

SECTION 2. School security measures shall be defined as investments made into student safety, intended to prevent, mitigate, or protect against school violence. School security measures may include, but are not limited to, training, metal detectors, technological improvements, and security personnel. Public schools shall be defined as any K-12 institution established under state law, regulated by local authorities, and funded by public taxation.

SECTION 3. The United States Department Of Education shall be tasked with the implementation of this legislation.

A. The Department of Education shall be responsible for developing a grant application and evaluation criteria, as well as ultimately distributing and monitoring use of grant funds to public schools.

B. Schools will have to show novel or sustainable approaches to address school violence in order to be eligible for the grant funding.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect at the beginning of FY 2026.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cairee Upshur of Phillipsburg High School.

A Bill to Regulate the Use of Autonomous Vehicles in Commercial Transportation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Autonomous vehicles shall be prohibited from being utilized in commercial
2 transportation services.

3 **SECTION 2.** Autonomous vehicles are defined as vehicles equipped with software and
4 technology that enable them to operate without active human control.

5 Commercial transportation services refer to services where vehicles are
6 hired or rented for temporary use by individuals or groups, including
7 rideshares and taxis.

8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shall be responsible for
9 enforcing the provisions of this legislation and developing safety
10 regulations to address potential software malfunctions in autonomous
11 vehicles used in any other contexts.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be effective immediately after passage.

13 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Shivank Jha of Ridge High School.

The Green Transition Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** Over the course of three years, all federal subsidies currently allocated to
2 the fossil fuel industry shall be redirected to support renewable energy
3 initiatives.

4 **SECTION 2.** Renewable energy is defined as energy derived from natural sources that
5 replenish without depletion. This includes, but is not limited to, solar, wind,
6 and hydroelectric power.

7 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection
8 Agency (EPA) will be responsible for implementing and overseeing the
9 reallocation of these funds.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on January 1st, 2025

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

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ridge High School.

A Resolution to Expand Membership of the USMCA to Countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean

1 **Whereas,** The United States is in the USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada
2 Agreement), and
3 **Whereas,** This agreement brings economic and environmental benefits to
4 all three nations, and
5 **Whereas,** The regions of Central America, South America, and the
6 Caribbean are currently facing economic and environmental challenges,
7 and
8 **Whereas,** Nations in those regions often look to other countries like China
9 for trade and support, and.
10 **Whereas,** Chinese economic and environmental influence in other regions
11 has shown to be detrimental to those nations, Therefore, be it
12 **Resolved,** That this Congress here assembled encourages the governments
13 of Canada and Mexico to allow the expansion of other nations in into the
14 USMCA, or to create an equivalent agreement that allows the membership
 of all nations in North and South America.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by
Aidan Vedder
Southern Lehigh High School*

The S.A.D Resolution: Saudi Arabian Defense Resolution

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

WHEREAS, Saudi Arabia has been aided in the murder of Yemeni people by the United States congress,

WHEREAS, Congress has sold arms to Saudi Arabia in exchange for oil and other commodities,

Whereas, These weapons have been used in the murder of Yemeni citizens,

Resolved, This congress shall halt any funding towards arms sales to Saudi Arabia and shall call for an end to the United States military alliance with Saudi Arabia.

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mitted by Council Rock North

A Bill to Implement a Carbon Tax

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** A carbon tax of \$10 per metric ton of CO₂ emitted by for-profit companies
2 will be imposed. The tax will initially apply to companies that emit more
3 than 30 metric tons of CO₂ per year, but will be applied to all for-profit
4 companies after 2035. The tax revenue will go to the Office of Energy
5 Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) of the United States Department
6 of Energy to aid the transition from fossil fuels to environmentally
7 sustainable energy.

8 **SECTION 2.** "Carbon emissions" is defined as carbon gas emissions that are influenced
9 by the direct decisions of for-profit corporations (which do business in the
10 U.S., onshore or offshore) for each calendar year.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Internal Revenue Service shall implement a tax of \$10 per metric ton of
12 carbon emitted per calendar year (above the threshold of 30 tons of CO₂)
13 for U.S. based for-profit organizations

14 A. After 2035, there shall not be a threshold of 30 tons of CO₂, and every
15 metric ton of CO₂ which for-profit companies emit will be taxed

16 B. After 2035, the tax per metric ton of CO₂ emitted by each company per
17 calendar year shall be raised to \$30

18 The taxes will go toward the The Office of Energy Efficiency and
19 Renewable Energy (EERE) of the United States Department of Energy

20 A. the EERE will use these taxes to aid the transition away from fossil
21 fuels to renewable, environmentally sustainable energy

22 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2025. All laws in conflict with this
23 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Submitted by Newtown Middle School

A Bill to Prevent Employers from Using Employees' Social Media Presence Against Them

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Employers will be prohibited from seeking employees' social media
2 accounts and using their media against them. Employees are not required
3 to give employers their personal social media to monitor their accounts.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** Social Media will be defined as any and all publicly made posts made on
5 personal time and accounts.
6 Employees include all working and potential applicants in all regions of
7 work.
- 8 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Labor shall oversee the enforcement and
9 implementation of this bill.
- 10 A. If caught in violation of this legislation, employers will be subject to a
11 fine of \$10,000, which will double for each subsequent violation.
- 12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect in January 2025. All laws in conflict with this
13 legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Shelby Manning of Hunterdon Central Regional High School.

Final Session

1. A Bill to Establish Rent Control Standards Nationwide to Ensure Housing Affordability

2. A Bill to Protect Creative and Intellectual Rights Through Fair AI Usage

3. A Bill to Revoke the Military Contracts of Boeing to Prevent Future Incidents

4. A Bill to Strengthen U.S. Nuclear Energy Infrastructure

A Bill to Establish Rent Control Standards Nationwide to Ensure Housing Affordability

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Nationwide rent control standards shall be established to cap annual rent increases for residential properties at 3%, or the rate of inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is lower.

SECTION 2. Rent control is defined as government regulations limiting the amount a landlord can charge for leasing a home (including, but not limited to houses, apartments, lofts, studios, condos) or renewing a lease.

SECTION 3. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will enforce this legislation. HUD will collaborate with state and local housing agencies to monitor compliance, manage disputes, and provide resources for enforcement.

A. A federal grant program will be established to support state and local housing agencies with enforcement costs, funded at \$500 million annually.

B. Rent control standards shall apply to all rental properties, except those participating in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which will continue to follow existing HUD guidelines.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Elizabeth High School.

A Bill to Protect Creative and Intellectual Rights Through Fair AI Usage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The unscrupulous use of AI for monetization, impersonation, and all other
2 harmful applications shall be banned.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** A. Unscrupulous AI use shall be defined as but is not limited to artificial
4 intelligence aimed to spread misinformation, undermine human-made
5 art, or imitate such art for financial, social, or legal gains.
6 B. Harmful applications shall be defined but are not limited to artificial
7 intelligence used to devalue or hinder authentic art.
- 8 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Homeland Security will oversee the implementation of
9 this legislation.
10 A. Individuals who violate the terms of this legislation will be fined \$2,500
11 for their first offense and \$5,000 for any subsequent offenses.
12 B. Companies or large corporations that violate the terms of this
13 legislation will be fined \$15,000 for their first offense and \$30,000 for
14 any subsequent offenses.
15 C. All funds collected through fines will be supplied to the Department of
16 Homeland Security to further their investigations.
- 17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect at the start of Fiscal Year 2025. All laws in
18 conflict with this legislation are hereby considered null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Alexander DeMarco of Phillipsburg High School.

A Bill to Revoke the Military Contracts of Boeing to Prevent Future Incidents

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States Federal Government will not renew
2 military contracts with Boeing.

3 **SECTION 2.** A) "Military contracts" shall be defined as funding,
4 technological partnerships, and transfer of properties.

5 B) "Renewing" shall be defined as the continuation of
6 contracts and relationships.

7 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Defense will collaborate with the
8 Government Accountability Office to ensure that no future contracts will be
9 established with Boeing, and will redistribute and replace the existing
10 contracts with other capable companies and/or organizations.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will be implemented immediately upon its
12 passing.

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

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by
Aubrey Cressman
From Southern Lehigh High School*

A Bill to Strengthen U.S. Nuclear Energy Infrastructure

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 **SECTION 1.** The United States will significantly expand its investment in nuclear power
2 infrastructure, including the development and enhancement of U.S.
3 nuclear power plants, to reduce dependency on foreign energy sources and
4 make nuclear energy more accessible and affordable.

5 **SECTION 2.** Nuclear power plants refer to nuclear reactors designed to produce
6 electricity for the national grid. "Significantly expanding investment"
7 includes funding sufficient to construct 25 additional nuclear plants over
8 the next decade, as well as covering the maintenance of current facilities.
9 "Making nuclear energy more affordable" will involve subsidizing consumer
10 costs to remain competitive with solar, wind, and other renewable energy
11 sources.

12 **SECTION 3.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will oversee the implementation of
13 this bill.

14 A. The DOE will submit yearly progress reports to Congress.

15 B. If challenges arise, the DOE is authorized to allocate additional funds as
16 needed to keep the project on schedule.

17 **SECTION 4.** This legislation will take effect on FY 2026. All conflicting laws are hereby
18 repealed.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Ridge High School.