ISSDA 2026 November/December Congress Docket

1. A Bill to Ban Police-Tracking Apps
2. A Bill to Set a Maximum on the Caseload for Public Defenders
3. A Bill to Provide Federal Funding for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
4. A Bill to Bar Bite Mark Evidence
5. A Resolution to Support the Syrian Arab Republic
6. The War Transparency Act
7. A Bill to Invest in Haiti's Infrastructure to Encourage Economic Growth and Stability
8. A Bill to Recognize the Republic of Somaliland as an Independent Nation
9. A Bill to Limit Overdraft Fees
10. The Better Seed Initiative Act
11. A Bill to Require American Companies to Produce at Least 60% of their products in the U.S.
12. The Wind Investment and Development (W.I.N.D.) Act

REMINDER: Each school may submit up to two pieces of legislation for consideration to be in the State Tournament docket. These must be submitted to the COO by December 1.

A Bill to Ban Police-Tracking Apps

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. No web application or other online service may enable users to share or receive information regarding the whereabouts of law enforcement officers.

SECTION 2. Any corporation or entity found to be hosting an application or service that violates this legislation shall be subject to fines and injunctions limiting business operations at the discretion of their local justice department.

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

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

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

A Bill to Set a Maximum on the Caseload for Public Defenders

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Public defenders shall not concurrently work on more than 60 misdemeanor cases or 20 felony cases. If a public defender is handling misdemeanor and felony cases simultaneously, they shall be restricted to 40 cases, with fewer than 10 being felony cases.

SECTION 2. “Misdemeanor” is defined as a crime punishable by fines or short terms of imprisonment in local jails. “Felony” is defined as a crime punishable by long terms of imprisonment in a federal or state prison.

SECTION 3. The Department of Justice (DOJ) will be responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this bill.

A. The DOJ will collaborate with local and state public defense systems to hire more public defenders.

B. The budget of the DOJ will be increased by $1 billion annually, until FY 2030, when the funding will be reevaluated.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect beginning FY 2028.

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

A Bill to Provide Federal Funding for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Congress hereby commits to funding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Congress will operate a 50/50 matching model for states and territories that are willing and able to contribute to the program and will pay 100% of costs for states and territories that are not.

SECTION 2. Congress directs the Department of Education to ensure that this program becomes and remains available to all children under the age of 5 residing in a U.S. zip code, regardless of citizenship status.

SECTION 3. Funding for this legislation shall be sourced from a commensurate reduction in the Department of Defense budget.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Education.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect on Dolly Parton's next birthday: January 19, 2027.

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

A Bill to Bar Bite Mark Evidence

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Federal Rules of Evidence shall be amended such that any evidence related to or stemming from bite marks, namely the effort to connect a suspect to a victim by comparing the suspect's teeth to the shape of a bite mark on the victim, shall be deemed wholly inadmissible in a federal court of law.

SECTION 2. Continued funding to states and territories from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) shall be conditioned on the enactment of similar legislation within one (1) year of passage.

SECTION 3. Federal cases that were decided in whole or in part based on bite mark evidence may be appealed and overturned if a guilty verdict is not upheld with bite mark evidence thrown out. States and territories are strongly encouraged to enact legislation allowing for similar review.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Justice.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

A Resolution to Support the Syrian Arab Republic

WHEREAS, The newly-minted government of Syrian Arab Republic is fragile and at increasing risk of devolving into another civil war; and,

WHEREAS, The weakened legitimacy of regional powers has presented the U.S. with a unique opportunity to bring stability to the war torn nation while also reasserting our interests in the Middle East; and,

WHEREAS, A return to war would lead to yet more loss of civilian life, put U.S. servicemembers in harm's way, and bolster the geostrategic position of our adversaries; and,

WHEREAS, The United States must act decisively and quickly to avoid further destabilization; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled, that the United States shall offer immediate material assistance in the form of humanitarian, economic, and military aid to the Syrian Arab Republic. The State Department shall also be directed to foster friendly relations with the new Syrian government by any means necessary, and to immediately begin the process of negotiating a bilateral defense agreement between the United States and Syria.

The War Transparency Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. To preserve constitutional checks and balances and ensure democratic accountability in war, the President of the United States may deploy U.S. Armed Forces into hostilities or situations where hostilities are imminent for a period not exceeding 45 days with prior authorization from Congress. Any deployment exceeding this limit shall require a specific Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF).

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation:

A. “Hostilities” shall refer to armed conflict involving the U.S. Armed Forces.

B. “Imminent threat” shall mean credible and specific intelligence indicating an immediate or near immediate risk of armed attack again the United States, its citizens, military personnel, diplomatic facilities, or treaty bound allies.

C. “Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF)” shall refer to a formal act of Congress approving military action.

SECTION 3. This act shall be enforced by the Department of Defense, in coordination

with the Executive Office of the President, through mandatory reporting to Congress regarding troop deployments, mission objectives, geographic scope, and duration. Failure to comply with reporting requirements shall result in immediate Congressional Review.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on March 1, 2027

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

A Bill to Invest in Haiti's Infrastructure to Encourage Economic Growth and Stability

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The U.S. will hereby invest $500 million per year for five years into the infrastructure of the Republic of Haiti. The annual budget must be used to its full potential. Any remaining funds for the year will be added to the next year's budget. After those five years, this legislation will automatically be submitted to the legislative agenda for renewal by Congress.

SECTION 2. Infrastructure shall be defined as projects developing roads, buildings, energy, and other projects deemed under the jurisdiction of this bill.

SECTION 3. This bill will become effective on January 1, 2028.

SECTION 4. The U.S. Agency for International Development will oversee the implementation of this legislation. Funding shall come from allocated foreign aid spending in the current United States budget.

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

A Bill to Recognize the Republic of Somaliland as an Independent Nation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States of America shall officially recognize the Republic of Somaliland as an independent nation.

A. The recognized territory will span from the currently recognized border of Somalia with Djibouti and Ethiopia to the west and south, the coast of the Gulf of Aden to the north, and Somaliland's former border as British Somaliland to the east.

B. The U.S. will work with the Somaliland government to open embassies in Hargeisa and Washington D.C.

C. The U.S. will recommend to the United Nations and other world governments to recognize the same.

SECTION 2. The official recognition of the country will include, but not be limited to diplomatic, economic, and military relations

SECTION 3. The Department of State will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect immediately after passing.

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

A Bill to Limit Overdraft Fees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All banks and financial institutions are hereby prohibited from charging overdraft fees or nonsufficient funds (NSF) fees that exceed five dollars ($5) per incident, unless said institution can provide clear documentation that their processing fees related to a specific transaction exceeded this amount, in which case they may charge enough to cover those costs plus an additional five dollars ($5).

SECTION 2. Any bank or financial institution found to be in violation of this legislation shall be fined one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each violating transaction, with funds raised from these fines to be turned over to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to support consumer financial protection initiatives.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall be overseen by the CFPB.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on July 1, 2027.

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

The Better Seed Initiative Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States Government shall invest in initiatives that strengthen public seed systems, public funding for non-patented open-source seed

breeding, and a comprehensive database showing IP rights of different plant varieties.

SECTION 2. "Public seed systems" shall include but is not limited to university breeding programs, USDA research stations, and public-private partnerships focused on open-source, non-patented seed development. "Open-source non-patented seed development" will hereby be defined as development of seeds that are free from Intellectual Property Restrictions.

SECTION 3. The USDA shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of the legislation. The USDA Agricultural Marketing System shall monitor results of this legislation and the creation of the database within their current systems.

A. Creates a database aimed at consolidating information related to IP rights associated with a particular plant variety that is easily accessible and updated frequently within the Plant Variety Protection Office database current managed by the Agricultural Marketing Service or AMS.

B. Increases investment in public seed systems and plant breeding through a grant system for public institutions to release cultivars with the intention to better aid small and mid sized seed

companies, developing seeds more resistant to climate change, and create a more decentralized seed market.

C. Public grants per institution will not exceed $2 billion per year.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect starting FY 2028.

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

A Bill to Require American Companies to Produce at Least 60% of Their Products in the U.S.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All American based companies that produce material in foreign manufacturing plants along with U.S. manufacturing plants must produce at least 60% of their sold material inside of the United States in order to increase domestic sales and production.

SECTION 2. A. Let “American based companies” be defined as commercial businesses that are incorporated in the United States and/or have their primary headquarters there.

B. Let “foreign manufacturing plants” be defined as production facilities a company establishes or contracts with in a country other than its home country to produce goods.

SECTION 3. The Department of Commerce (DOC) will oversee the implementation of this bill.

A. The Department of Commerce will monitor the amount of product/material American based companies that also produce overseas, manufacture.

B. If a company violates this legislation, they will be fined the amount of profit they made from the excess international sales as in accordance with their sales reports.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2028.

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

The Wind Investment and Development (W.I.N.D.) Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The U.S. Government shall restart the leasing and permitting of all future and ongoing wind farm projects, both onshore and offshore, particularly pertaining to those impacted by the January 20th, 2025 executive order. Additionally, the federal government shall allocate a total of $2 billion to fund investment in and future research of both onshore and offshore wind projects with a goal of revitalizing affordable green energy.

SECTION 2. “Investment” refers to opening a grant program for wind energy companies to help combat high startup costs and fund other necessary developments

like construction and employee training that the Department of Energy deems fit.

SECTION 3. This bill will become effective at the start of FY 2028.

SECTION 4. The Department of Energy (DOE) shall be the lead agency in overseeing the advancement of research and shall manage the disbursement of grants.

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