



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

ACTAA Fall 2021 Legislative Docket

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Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Decriminalize Illegal Immigration

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States federal government will decriminalize illegal border crossings by repealing Section 1325 to unclog our criminal justice system and shift to the civil immigration process by just deporting undocumented immigrants.

SECTION 2. a. Illegal border crossings are unauthorized foreign individuals entering a country.
b. Section 1325 is a law that makes entry into the United States a misdemeanor offense that can come with a sentence up to 6 months.

SECTION 3. The Department of Homeland Security will be responsible for the oversight of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This bill will be implemented on January 1st, 2023

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cabot High School



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Establish a Plastic Tax to Reduce Plastic Waste

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A tax increase of 2% per million tons of polyethylene produced by plastic production companies within the United States.

SECTION 2. Polyethylene shall be defined as a lightweight, durable, thermoplastic of varying crystalline structures.

SECTION 3. This bill will be overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, through recording plastic production. As well as the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, for the purpose of implementing the appropriate tax increase.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on FY 2023. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by North Little Rock High School.



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Make Insurance Mandatory for Police Officers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All law-enforcement agencies in the United States shall be required to purchase liability insurance for eligible employees.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of this legislation, “liability insurance” shall be defined as insurance that protects law enforcement agents and agencies from the full cost of court cases and awarded damages in a civil suit. “Eligible employees” shall be defined as any law enforcement agent that is authorized, under the agency’s code, to carry a weapon of any kind, including but not limited to: firearms, batons, and crown-control agents.

SECTION 3. The Department of Justice shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

A. Any law enforcement agencies found to be in violation of this law shall lose 10% of their federal funding for each month of noncompliance.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall go into effect three months after passage.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Little Rock Central



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Tax the Collection of User Data by Software Companies

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The collection of user data to send targeted ads or target potential customers is exploitation and an invasion of the privacy of software users. This Bill enacts a tax on the collection of user data by software companies in order to limit the invasiveness and ensure user privacy.

SECTION 2. User Data: the use of software to collect data where the user is unaware of the data collection effort and no overt actions are required on the user's part.

Software Companies: Microsoft, Google, etc.

Collection: entails stored information about user behavior.

SECTION 3. Government agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and Internal Revenue Service under the Department of Treasury will oversee the enforcement of this bill. They shall inspect the invasion of privacy into users of the softwares to be able to tax them accordingly.

A. The money made off of the tax will benefit children in science, technology, engineering, and math education through public school programs. This will be implemented and overseen by the Federal Department of Education.

B. This information intrusion will be left to companies for them to benefit economically rather than the government agencies like the National Security Agency.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on October 1, 2022. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bentonville West High School.



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Address the Fast Fashion Market and Industry within the United States

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1: The United States Federal Government shall enact a Textiles Producer Responsibility Tax on all garments produced in the United States and all garments imported from foreign markets..

A: The Textiles Producer Responsibility Tax (TPR) will be a Temporary five-year tax and tariff beginning January 1, 2024.

B: The TPR Tax will be 2 cents per garment produced domestically and 4 cents per garment produced in foreign markets.

C: Tax revenue collected will be earmarked for scientific recycling research and development specifically in clothing recycling and after-use repurposing.

SECTION 2: After the five-year taxing cycle, textile producers who can prove they are manufacturing durable clothing that is viable for recycling and disassembly will be exempt, and the TPR will be extended for producers failing to meet established industry standards. Other non-clothing textile producers can apply for exemption at any time.

SECTION 3: The U.S. Department of the Interior will oversee the enforcement of this legislation and all corresponding exceptions, coordinating with other federal agencies as needed for investigations and enforcement.

SECTION 4: This law takes effect January 1, 2024, with the industry needing to be in compliance on day one.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Don Tyson School of Innovation



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Resolution to Extend Aid to the Tigray People of Ethiopia

WHEREAS, The Tigray People of Ethiopia are being ethnically cleansed and a vast majority of their population urgently needs assistance; and

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Ahmed of Ethiopia has sought to consolidate the power of the federal government into one central political party, jailing political opposition and eliminating competing parties; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has seized control of Tigray's capital and other towns, forcing supporters to flee while heavy shelling and gun battles continue; and

WHEREAS, A military offensive has been ordered into the area of Tigray and completely cut off access to internet and phone communications, along with restricting journalists in the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation for the United States to extend whatever aid necessary to the Tigray people to retain their political freedom and curtail ethnic cleansing in the region; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the Ethiopian government still refuses to back down, this Congress should consider sanctioning the Government of Ethiopia for their actions against the Tigray people.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jonesboro High School



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Make the First Four Semesters at a Public College or University Tuition-free

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Incoming college students will have no tuition to pay for the first four semesters of their time at a public college or university if they are academically eligible to attend said school. Students who maintain at 3.0 or higher during those first four semesters, will be eligible to continue their education tuition-free as long as they maintain appropriate academic progress.

SECTION 2. Incoming college students will be defined as students who are 17-25 with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on their eight semester high school transcript and 19 or higher on each area of the ACT.

SECTION 3. The United States Department of Education will oversee the implementation and administration of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Parkview Magnet



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

The Harm Reduction Act of 2021

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A federal harm reduction program is hereby established to create zones in certain cities across the country to allow the use of controlled substances.

Possession of all controlled substances, as well as paraphernalia related to those substances, is no longer illegal in these zones.

Two billion dollars will be allocated annually to this program from the budget of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SECTION 2. A harm reduction program is a program that engages in education, treatment, risk reduction, and prevention of drug use. A controlled substance is any of the substances listed in the schedules of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970.

SECTION 3. This program will be overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with community organizations with overlapping missions.

SECTION 4. The legislation will be implemented by fiscal year 2023.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Little Rock Central High



A Bill to Establish a Minimum Wage for Prison Labour

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- SECTION 1. For all forms of prison labour involving incarcerated persons, the United States federal government shall provide pay of at least 85% of minimum wage standards in the prison's respective state.
- SECTION 2. 'Prison labour' will be defined as any unfree labour whether voluntary or forced by inmates within the United States Prison system. 'Pay' will be defined as the amount allocated by wage standards which will be available at the same standards as current wages within their respective state. Any unused wages earned by the prisoner will be distributed upon release.
- SECTION 3. The United States Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons will oversee this in collaboration with Justice and Corrections Departments within each state. Funding will be taken from a 5% income tax increase to those earning over 1 million, any additional funds needed will be redistributed from the military budget.
- Any prison violating this will be fined 200% of withheld wages and will be overseen directly by the Federal Bureau of Prisons for up to 2 years following the infraction.
- SECTION 4. This bill will be implemented by fiscal year 2023
- SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jonesboro High School.



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Require People Purchasing a Firearm to Pass Standard Background Checks Prior to Purchase

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All United States citizens who are purchasing a firearm will be required to pass standard background checks prior to purchase. The cost of the background checks will be the responsibility of the purchasing party.

SECTION 2. A standard background check is one that is done through appropriate state and federal agencies. Non-citizens and underage citizens will not be allowed to purchase firearms. Fingerprints and a Child Maltreatment Check will be a mandatory part of the background checks.

SECTION 3. The United States Department of Justice, specifically the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will implement and oversee the enforcement of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2023.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Parkview Magnet



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Resolution to Repeal Senate Bill 202 “The Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act” & Instate Non-Discrimination Clauses

WHEREAS, The religious discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals cannot be tolerated pursuant to 1st Amendment right to Religious Liberty, and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment,

WHEREAS, out of Arkansans over 13, 3.3% of the population are part of the LGBTQIA+ Community, totaling over 95,000,

WHEREAS, Non-Discrimination Laws and Ordinances are constitutionally protected,

WHEREAS, 82% of Arkansans are religious, LGBTQIA+ and other non-religious minorities are vulnerable to tyranny of the majority; adequate protections must be instated,

WHEREAS, The Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act’s allowance of discriminatory legislation has been used repeatedly to target LGBTQIA+ persons through acts such as “An Act to Create The Medical Ethics and Diversity Act” and “the Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act”, and other non-religious minorities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Congress here assembled that the Church and State be formally separated through adequate legislation such as striking “under God” from the pledge of allegiance, and striking “In God, We Trust” as the Arkansas state Motto, and instate adequate protections for the LGBTQIA+ community and other non-religious minorities,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That SB 202 “The Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act” be repealed and replaced with non-discrimination clauses.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bentonville West High School



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Abolish the Every Student Succeeds Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States federal government will abolish the Every Student Succeeds Act.

SECTION 2. The Every Student Succeeds Act structures that states report to the United States Department of Education regarding accountability plans and their lowest-performing schools.

SECTION 3. This bill will be implemented and enforced by the United States Department of Education.

SECTION 4. This bill will go into passage by January 1st 2023

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cabot High School



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Require All Arkansas Drivers to Be Licensed

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Drivers of any ATVs, Golf Carts, MoPeds, and other moving vehicles must be over the age of 16 and licensed for an automobile.

SECTION 2. 30% of the 15,000 golf cart accidents involve children, leaving 4,500 kids suffering injuries. In 2017, 73 children under the age of 16 were killed in ATV accidents. This is compared to the 93,800 injuries, whereas 26% involved children under 16. 93,800 injuries, whereas 26% involved children under 16. Concluding that over 90% of drivers involved in moped or scooter crashes were uninsured

SECTION 3. The Arkansas Office of Driver Services will oversee the licensing of these drivers, and be enforced by local police and sheriff departments.

There is no funding necessary for this bill, as the same test will be provided as for an automobile license.

A fine of \$200 will be given for any unlicensed driver by the date enacted.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 4, 2023. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by North Little Rock High School



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Reform Law Enforcement Standards and Decrease Police Brutality

SECTION 1: Law Enforcement Training shall have one unified code that must be upheld as a national standard by all law enforcement agencies within the United States of America.

A. Furthermore, Law Enforcement standards shall now be based on an equal guideline that must uphold the safety and equal rights of all citizens, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, or any other individual status.

B. Law Enforcement Training will be overseen and set by the Department of Justice and shall now be taught as safeguards and guidelines to reduce harm to citizens. When a law or norm is broken, serious consequences will occur, including but not limited to, removal from that law enforcement agency, probation time, jail time, and or a \$25,000 fine.

SECTION 2. Law Enforcement Training shall be defined as all education and conditioning that are associated with and based on how a police officer carries themselves and follows the rules/regulations established by training to carry a badge.

SECTION 3. The Department of Justice shall oversee the implementation of this bill, and the creation of the minimal standard and guidelines for Law Enforcement Training nationwide. These standards will be written with equality, safety, and decrease of violence as the top priority.

A. The State Level Law Enforcement officials and agencies shall be held accountable for maintaining proper protocol and officer training of Law Enforcement officers, based on the new Department of Justice (DOJ) standards, and will have annual refresher training to ensure no one officer is out of compliance.

SECTION 4. This legislation will be enacted immediately upon passage with implementation within two years of completed standards and initial training beginning (No later than 11/08/2023).

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Don Tyson School of Innovation



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Mandate the Installation of Solar Panels in New Commercial Buildings

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Any commercial building that finishes construction after the passage of this bill will be required to install solar panels at or above the level needed to power the entire building.

SECTION 2. A commercial building will be defined as real estate intended to generate a profit, either from capital gains or rental income that exceeds 500 total square feet. Any renovation to a commercial building that involves more than 75% of the building being changed will also be included within this definition.

SECTION 3. This will be overseen by the Department of Energy and work with state and local governments to ensure that all guidelines are completely followed. Anyone who refuses to install solar panels will have their building permit indefinitely revoked until the solar panels are installed.

SECTION 4. This bill will be implemented by July 1, 2022.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Jonesboro High School.



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Resolution to Require Arkansas Public Schools to Teach Touch- typing to 4th and 5th Grade Students

WHEREAS, Touch-typing is defined as the practice or skill of typing using all one's fingers and without looking at the keys; and

WHEREAS, Many schools in the United States of America no longer teach touch typing; and

WHEREAS, Touch-typing helps children work faster in a world where computer usage is quickly increasing; and

WHEREAS, Touch-typing makes individuals less prone to Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) which is often caused by “keyboard pecking” ; and

WHEREAS, Touch-typing provides many benefits towards cognitive and motor function in humans; and

WHEREAS, “A child is developmentally ready to learn typing in 4th grade,” according to pediatric occupational therapist Michelle Yoder; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that all Arkansas Public Schools be required to teach Touch-typing to 4th and 5th grade students.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Parkview Magnet.



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Protect the Bears Ears National Park

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The boundaries of the Bears Ears National Park Monument in Utah shall be redrawn to that of its original size and formally established as a national park. All mining companies that have been granted claims to the land by the federal government shall receive severance damages.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of this legislation, “severance damages” shall be defined as monetary compensation for the loss of a portion of land that the government reclaims for public use.

SECTION 3. This bill shall be enacted by the Department of the Interior

Funding for the severance damages mandated by Section 2 of this legislation shall be derived from the Department of the Interior’s FY 2022 budget.

Staffing and maintenance of the park will be the responsibility of the National Park Service.

SECTION 4. This law shall go into effect January 1, 2022.

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Little Rock Central High



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Bill to Reform Medical Patents to Decrease Drug Prices and Manufacturing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Currently, the United States has laws in place that let companies attach patents to their drugs without fairness. This bill would reduce those costs making pharmaceuticals more accessible.

SECTION 2. The ability to reform, amend, and improve change and form faults or abuses to put an end to something by enforcing or introducing a better method or course of action.

Pharma: Pharmaceutical companies collectively as a sector of industry.

SECTION 3. The FDA shall oversee the reformation of Medical Patents. This will remove all future granting (renewing) of medical patents and end the creation of all future patents. Through the completion of this, all companies will have access to said un-renewed patents.

The reformation of the patent system will deduct no less than 500 million from the US budget. However this will be covered in a 0.3 percent raise in Sin Tax across the states until reformation is complete.

The money allocated in this bill will be used to hire people within the FDA to help the passing of the reformation; it will also be used to provide grants to companies that may lose money on this bill

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

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Bentonville West High School.



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Resolution to Recognize the Genocide of the Native Americans

WHEREAS, The United States has failed to recognize the genocide of Native Americans that they are directly responsible for.

WHEREAS, The native population of America has decreased by over 20% in the past 25 years and have a poverty rate of 25%. Which the US is responsible for through legislation and murder.

WHEREAS, The rich history and culture of Native Americans is slowly being forgotten by the public due to the lack of Natives because of the US genocide onto their people.

WHEREAS, The recognition of this genocide will be the first step into healing and helping the Native American community.

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled to officially recognize the actions of the US government towards Native Americans as a genocide.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by North Little Rock High School



Arkansas Communication & Theatre Arts Association

A Resolution to Provide Comprehensive Native American History Education In United States Public Schools

WHEREAS, history classes in public schools do not adequately teach pre-colonization Native American history; and

WHEREAS, schools often sell a romanticized narrative of the relationship between natives and settlers; and

WHEREAS, many students don't have an understanding of native culture despite incorrect and racially charged media; and

WHEREAS, a diverse and well-rounded, culturally-inclusive education is important; and

WHEREAS, improved education on Native American history and culture will help non-native students better understand their native peers and the role of whiteness in deconstructing and rewriting Native history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that all United States Public Schools shall enforce better and more comprehensive Native American history.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Cabot High School