

HMDC Model Congress (Fall 2024)

Bills for the Model Congress Conference

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A BILL TO REQUIRE SOLAR PANELS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS (SAMPLE)

PURPOSE: To reduce government energy costs and protect the environment by installing solar panels on federal, state, and local government buildings.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Government buildings use large amounts of electricity, costing taxpayers millions of dollars each year
- Most government buildings have unused roof space that could generate solar power
- Current laws do not require government buildings to use renewable energy
- Climate change requires immediate action to reduce fossil fuel use

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Install solar panels on government buildings according to this schedule:
 - All new buildings must include solar panels starting January 1, 2025
 - 50% of existing buildings must have panels by December 31, 2027
 - 100% of existing buildings must have panels by December 31, 2030
- B. Exceptions allowed for:
 - Buildings with insufficient sun exposure
 - Historic buildings where panels would damage historical value
 - Buildings scheduled for demolition within 5 years

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The Department of Energy will:
 - Survey all government buildings to assess solar potential
 - Create installation schedules for each building
 - Hire contractors through competitive bidding
 - Monitor installation progress
 - Report results to Congress annually
- B. Building managers must:
 - Cooperate with survey teams
 - Prepare buildings for installation
 - Train staff on solar system operation
 - Track energy savings

SECTION 4: FUNDING

- A. Total estimated cost: \$5 billion over 5 years
 - \$500 million for building surveys
 - \$4 billion for panel installation
 - \$500 million for staff training
- B. Funding sources:
 - \$3 billion from existing building maintenance budgets
 - \$2 billion from new clean energy bonds

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

- A. Financial Benefits:
 - 40% reduction in government electricity costs
 - Estimated savings of \$1 billion annually after full implementation
 - Return on investment within 5 years
- B. Environmental Benefits:
 - Reduce government carbon emissions by 35%
 - Demonstrate leadership in clean energy
 - Create jobs in solar industry

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative [Student Name]

[State/District]

[Committee Name]

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A BILL TO PREVENT CLIMATE DISASTERS (GWYNETH)

PURPOSE: To reduce the risk of climate-related disasters by limiting harmful emissions, promoting renewable energy, and implementing policies to combat climate change.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Climate change leads to severe disasters like hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, threatening lives and property.
- Current reliance on fossil fuels increases greenhouse gas emissions.
- Renewable energy sources are underused, even though they are available and environmentally friendly.
- Immediate action is necessary to address these challenges effectively.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Establish stricter emission reduction targets for industries by 2026.
- B. Require that at least 25% of energy for public facilities come from renewable sources by 2030.
- C. Offer subsidies and incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy in private and commercial sectors.
- D. Launch a national education program to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will:

- Monitor and enforce emission reduction standards.
- Work with local governments to promote renewable energy initiatives.
- Submit annual reports to Congress on progress made.

B. State and local governments must:

- Collaborate with the EPA to meet energy transition goals.
- Establish regional task forces for oversight.
- Implement public awareness campaigns about the benefits of renewable energy.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Estimated cost: \$12 billion over 5 years.

- \$5 billion for renewable energy development projects.
- \$3 billion for subsidies and incentives.
- \$2 billion for public awareness campaigns.
- \$2 billion for compliance monitoring and enforcement.

B. Funding sources:

- \$6 billion from reallocated federal energy budgets.
- \$6 billion through green energy bonds.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 30% within the next decade.
- Improved air quality and ecosystem health.

B. Economic Benefits:

- Creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in renewable energy industries.
- Savings on disaster recovery and rebuilding costs.
- Strengthened long-term economic stability through sustainable practices.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Gwyneth Young, Grade 5

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO BAN ANIMAL TESTING (VINCY)

PURPOSE:

To ban animal testing in scientific experiments and product development by promoting alternative testing methods that are safer, more ethical, and scientifically advanced.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Animal testing causes unnecessary suffering to millions of animals each year.
- Animal bodies respond differently from human bodies, leading to inaccurate or incomplete scientific results.
- Current laws still allow the use of animals in research, despite the availability of alternative testing methods.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Prohibit the use of animals in scientific testing where alternative methods exist.
- B. Require all research organizations to adopt alternative testing methods such as:
 - Vitro Testing: Using cell cultures to simulate human responses.
 - Computer Modeling: Predicting drug effects using advanced simulations.
- C. Establish a legal framework to ensure compliance with these regulations.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will:
 - Inspect and certify labs using approved alternative testing methods.
 - Monitor compliance with the ban on animal testing.
 - Publish annual reports on testing practices and violations.
- B. Research facilities must:
 - Transition to approved non-animal testing methods within three years.
 - Train staff on the new testing procedures.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

- A. Estimated cost: \$290 million to \$720 million over five years.
 - \$30 million - \$100 million for legislation and enforcement.
 - \$50 million - \$100 million for education and training programs.
 - \$200 million - \$500 million for developing and validating alternatives.
 - \$10 million - \$20 million for a public awareness campaign.
- B. Funding sources:
 - Federal scientific research budgets.
 - Public-private partnerships with technology companies.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental and Ethical Benefits:

- Reduced suffering of animals in labs.
- More accurate and reliable scientific results.

B. Economic Benefits:

- Savings in long-term research costs through faster and more efficient testing methods.
- Increased investments in innovative testing technologies.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Vincy Qian, Grade 4

Education and Workforce Committee

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CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE OF 2024 (GRACE)

A bill to help keep our oceans clean.

PURPOSE:

Our oceans are covered in trash, strangling all types of marine life. This bill will help organize cleanups and ban harmful types of plastics and substances.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Right now, there are 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic waste estimated to be in our oceans. If we don't do anything about this, more than 50 percent of the world's marine species may face extinction by 2100.
- Everybody is affected by this problem, as there will be plastic in all the food we eat and all the air we breathe.
- Current laws lack enforcement, resources, and the will to monitor ocean protection laws effectively.
- We need to fix this because right now, marine life is being killed, plastic is polluting our environment, and many species face extinction.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Implement a ban on single-use plastics in coastal areas and promote alternatives.

- Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices through tax incentives.
- Organize beach cleanups in all coastal areas.

B. Exceptions allowed for:

- Small-scale fishermen and local fishing communities.
- Scientific or educational activities that may require the use of plastics for research.
- Medical and healthcare sectors that rely on plastics.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Environmental Services Industry will:

- Oversee the bill and decide adequate consequences for those who violate it.
- Make sure that everyone, except for the exceptions listed above, is doing their part to help keep our oceans clean.
- Submit a progress report annually, detailing outcomes and recommendations.

B. Every local government agency must:

- Organize 1-2 beach cleanups per month.
- Incentivize more sustainable alternatives by implementing taxes.
- Ban single-use plastics and organize posters against harmful substances.

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SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$2 billion over 5 years

- \$500 million for public awareness campaigns and education
- \$1 billion for research and development of alternatives
- \$500 million for plastic clean-up programs

B. Funding sources:

- New fund to provide grants to local governments, non-profits, and community organizations for ocean cleanup projects and educational programs.
- Existing local government funds.

SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Reduction in ocean pollution
- Lower carbon footprint
- Reduction in landfill waste

B. Health Benefits:

- Reduced exposure to harmful chemicals
- Prevention of plastic pollution in our food
- Promotion of healthy alternatives to plastic

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect at the start of 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Grace Yun, Grade 6

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO BAN GAS-POWERED VEHICLES (DAXTON)

PURPOSE:

To protect the environment, eliminate climate pollution, and improve public health by banning the production of gas-powered vehicles in the United States.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Gas-powered vehicles contribute significantly to carbon emissions, a leading factor in climate change.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the transportation sector is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the U.S., accounting for 29% of total emissions.
- Vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, and low-income communities, are disproportionately affected by climate change and pollution.
- Communities near highways and industrial zones suffer higher rates of respiratory diseases due to vehicle emissions.
- Current regulations, such as fuel economy standards, are insufficient to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the required levels.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Ban the production of new gas-powered vehicles:

- Beginning January 1, 2030, the production of new gas-powered passenger vehicles will be prohibited in the United States.
- By January 1, 2035, the ban will extend to the production of new gas-powered commercial vehicles.

B. Exceptions allowed for:

- Military and emergency response vehicles due to their critical roles.
- Classic or historical vehicles, which may continue to be produced or imported under strict regulation.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will:

- Develop and enforce regulations banning the production of gas-powered vehicles.
- Establish monitoring systems to ensure compliance among manufacturers.
- Publish annual progress reports on emissions reductions and compliance for Congress.

B. The Department of Transportation must:

- Collaborate with the automotive industry to support the transition to electric vehicle (EV) production.
- Provide guidance and support, including retraining programs for workers transitioning to EV manufacturing.

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SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$20 billion over 10 years

- \$5 billion for research and development in EV technology.
- \$10 billion to subsidize automakers for electric vehicle production.
- \$5 billion to support workforce retraining programs.

B. Funding sources:

- \$10 billion from the Clean Energy Fund.
- \$10 billion from federal grants and partnerships with private companies investing in green technology.

SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Significant reduction in carbon emissions from tailpipe exhaust.
- Improved air quality nationwide.

B. Economic Benefits:

- Creation of new jobs in the electric vehicle manufacturing sector.
- Long-term savings in healthcare costs linked to pollution-related diseases.

C. Health Benefits:

- Reduced respiratory illnesses such as lung disease, asthma, and conditions caused by smog and air pollution.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2028, allowing manufacturers adequate time to transition to electric vehicle production and infrastructure adjustments.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Daxton Du, Grade 3

Energy and Commerce Committee

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A BILL TO LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS (BOEN)

PURPOSE:

To help more people afford healthcare by reducing costs and improving access to essential medical services.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Poor people cannot afford healthcare.
- The common population is heavily affected by high healthcare expenses.
- Current laws attempt to balance fairness between the rich and the poor but fail to reduce healthcare costs meaningfully.
- We need to fix this because healthcare often costs too much money.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Lower healthcare prices by approximately 10%.

- Gather enough public and private funding.
- Use funds to support hospitals in providing high-quality products and services.
- Ensure healthcare remains affordable for all citizens.

B. Exceptions allowed for:

- Hospitals that already charge less than \$5,000 per person.
- No one is exempt from following this law.
- This law does not apply to extremely wealthy individuals with private care arrangements.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

The United States Department of Health & Human Services shall:

- Provide funding directly to hospitals or purchase supplies for them.
- Monitoring hospital progress is not required but should be encouraged.
- Report updates to the public through news outlets.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$900 million over 10 years

- \$100 million for doctors' salaries
- \$500 million for medical supplies
- \$300 million for maintaining clean facilities

B. Funding sources:

- UnitedHealth Group, Inc.
- United States Department of Health & Human Services

SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Increased availability of healthcare services
- More people can afford medical care and treatment

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SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on February 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Boen Wu, Grade 4

Financial Services Committee

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A BILL TO PROTECT WILDLIFE BY REDUCING POLLUTION (ELEANOR)

PURPOSE:

To protect wildlife, preserve ecosystems, and ensure a clean and safe environment for everyone by reducing pollution in rivers, lakes, air, and other natural areas.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Pollution in rivers, lakes, and air threatens wildlife and damages ecosystems.
- Plastic pollution never decomposes and continues to harm animals and the environment.
- Humans, animals, and trees are all affected by pollution, which endangers health and biodiversity.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Implement the following actions:

- Stop pollution in rivers, lakes, and natural areas.
- Pick up trash and prevent further littering in public spaces.
- Protect and rescue wildlife affected by pollution.

B. Exceptions allowed for:

- Local recycling and community cleanup projects that comply with environmental standards.
- Necessary construction or industrial projects that meet strict environmental guidelines.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall:

- Oversee the enforcement of pollution reduction measures.
- Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance.
- Report annually to Congress and the public on progress and effectiveness.

Local governments and communities must:

- Organize clean-up events to remove trash and pollutants from public spaces.
- Educate the public on recycling and proper waste disposal.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$2 billion over 5 years

- \$500 million for public awareness campaigns and education.
- \$1 billion for clean-up operations and waste management infrastructure.
- \$500 million for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation programs.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal environmental protection funds.
- Grants from private companies and environmental organizations.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Cleaner rivers, lakes, and air.
- Restoration of ecosystems and improved biodiversity.

B. Health Benefits:

- Safer air and water for humans and animals.
- Reduced risk of pollution-related illnesses.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Eleanor Chen, Grade 4

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT BETTER (JULIA)

PURPOSE:

To address environmental degradation by reducing pollution, conserving resources, and promoting sustainable practices.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Environmental degradation is caused by factors such as population growth, industrial pollution, agricultural pollution, and excessive resource use.
- Climate change is worsening, leading to rising sea levels, glacier melting, extreme weather events, and ecosystem imbalances.
- This issue affects everyone by threatening biodiversity, human health, and global stability.
- Immediate action is needed to maintain ecological balance, protect human health, and promote green development.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Implement the following actions:

- Save resources and reduce pollution by introducing nationwide recycling initiatives.
- Organize cleanup programs to remove plastic waste from oceans, forests, and other natural areas.

B. Exceptions allowed for:

- Essential industrial activities meeting strict environmental standards.
- Projects promoting the use of environmentally friendly alternatives.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

The Natural Resources Committee shall:

- Allocate funding to recruit personnel for cleanup operations.
- Oversee the implementation of pollution reduction initiatives.
- Monitor and report on progress annually.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$103 billion to \$895 billion over one year

- \$7.5 billion for cleaning plastics in oceans.
- \$4.68 billion for cleaning plastics in forests.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal environmental protection funds.
- Contributions from private organizations and businesses.

SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Improved environmental quality through reduced pollution and waste.
- Promotion of sustainable development practices.
- Increased public awareness of environmental protection efforts.

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SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Julia Zhu, Grade 5

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO IMPROVE SCHOOL LUNCHES (HARPER)

PURPOSE:

To provide students with healthy food choices instead of unhealthy, processed, and junk foods.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Many school lunches are high in sugar, unhealthy fats, and processed ingredients.
- Schools often lack vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, and gluten-free options.
- Poor nutrition contributes to rising obesity rates among children, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), which estimates 39 million children under age 5 were overweight or obese in 2020.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Implement the following improvements in school lunch programs:

- Add a wide variety of vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, and gluten-free meal options.
- Introduce salad bars in all school cafeterias.
- Survey students and parents regularly to understand their dietary needs and preferences.
- Replace unhealthy ingredients with healthier alternatives.
- Eliminate highly processed foods from school menus.

B. Exceptions allowed for:

- Emergency or disaster-related situations where meal adjustments may be required.
- Local schools with approved alternative health and nutrition programs.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall:

- Develop national guidelines for healthier school lunches.
- Monitor schools to ensure compliance with new nutrition standards.
- Provide training programs for school food service staff.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$700,000

- \$100,000 for purchasing healthier ingredients.
- \$500,000 for installing salad bars in school cafeterias.
- \$100,000 for expanding vegetarian, vegan, dairy-free, and gluten-free meal options.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal school nutrition programs.
- Private donations from companies and organizations supporting child nutrition initiatives.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Health Benefits:

- Reduced obesity rates and improved child health.
- Decreased risk of diet-related illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease.

B. Social and Educational Benefits:

- Enhanced student focus and academic performance due to better nutrition.
- Increased family satisfaction with school meal programs.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Harper Ren, Grade 5

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO GIVE FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS FOR KIDS (JOEY)

PURPOSE:

To ensure that all kids, regardless of their families' financial situation, can visit our nation's beautiful national parks for free. National parks are essential places for learning about nature, wildlife, and history. Every child should have the opportunity to experience them without financial barriers.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- National parks provide valuable learning experiences about nature, science, and animals, but many kids do not learn enough about them.
- Visiting national parks encourages physical activity such as hiking, walking, and exploring. Kids currently have limited active time outside of school recess.
- Children spend too much time on screens, which affects their physical and mental health. Experiencing nature can improve their overall well-being.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Allow free access to all national parks for children 18 and younger.
- B. Provide free entry tickets to kids when they arrive at the park. Parents or guardians must pay for additional services such as camping or parking.
- C. Ensure free access is available year-round on every day the parks are open.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Department of the Parks shall:

- Create a system to distribute free tickets to kids at park entrances.
- Monitor the number of visiting children and evaluate the program's effectiveness.
- Submit an annual report on the program's progress to Congress.

B. The National Park Service must:

- Maintain and update park facilities to accommodate increased visitors.
- Establish safety measures, especially in high-traffic areas.
- Collaborate with local governments to promote family participation in the program.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Funding sources:

- Millions of dollars allocated from the national budget by Congress for national park funding.
- Potential private donations from businesses and environmental organizations.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Education:

- Kids will gain knowledge about nature, animals, and ecosystems.
- They will participate in educational programs such as guided tours and nature walks.

B. Health and Wellness:

- More children will engage in outdoor activities like hiking, walking, and exploring.
- Reduced screen time and improved mental and physical health.
- Enhanced overall well-being through outdoor recreation and exercise.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Joey Shen, Grade 2

Science, Space, and Technology Committee

HMDC Model Congress (Fall 2024)

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A BILL TO REQUIRE MORE FIELD TRIPS FOR STUDENTS (SURI)

PURPOSE:

To reduce student unhappiness and increase learning engagement by offering more school field trips.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Students are often unhappy when learning through books alone.
- They aren't learning all the real-world knowledge they need.
- Excessive classroom learning can strain students' eyes due to prolonged screen or book use.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Require all schools to organize at least one field trip per month.
- B. Ensure teachers prepare new and engaging activities to make learning enjoyable every day.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Board of Education shall:

- Announce the monthly field trip requirement to all school principals.
- Oversee compliance and provide necessary updates.

B. Local Schools must:

- Hire professional drivers to transport students safely up to 5 hours per trip.
- Organize and manage monthly field trips according to school schedules.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$8 million per year

- Drivers' salaries: \$1 million
- Leading team salaries: \$2 million
- School buses: \$4,000
- Lunches: \$1 million and \$6,000
- Activities: \$2 million

B. Funding sources:

- Federal Department of Education budget.
- State and local education funds.

SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Educational Benefits:

- Enhanced hands-on learning and real-world experience.
- Increased student engagement and academic performance.

B. Social Benefits:

- Improved social skills through collaborative field trips.
- Stronger teacher-student relationships through shared learning experiences.

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SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on December 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Suri Zeng, Grade 3

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION (CINDY)

PURPOSE: To reduce deforestation by promoting sustainable forest management, limiting illegal logging, and encouraging reforestation programs to protect the environment and combat climate change.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Deforestation is causing the destruction of natural habitats, leading to species extinction.
- Forest loss contributes to climate change by increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Current environmental laws are not effectively enforced, allowing illegal logging and land clearing to continue.
- Immediate action is required to preserve forests and protect the planet's biodiversity.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Ban illegal logging and increase penalties for violations.
- B. Require that logging companies plant two trees for every tree they cut down.
- C. Establish a national reforestation program to restore damaged forests.
- D. Fund research on sustainable alternatives to logging products.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The U.S. Forest Service shall:

- Monitor forests for illegal logging activities.
- Enforce logging regulations and issue fines for non-compliance.
- Collaborate with local governments and environmental organizations to oversee reforestation projects.

B. State Environmental Agencies must:

- Conduct environmental inspections regularly.
- Ensure local companies follow sustainable forestry practices.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$10 billion over 5 years

- \$3 billion for enforcing anti-logging laws.
- \$4 billion for national reforestation efforts.
- \$2 billion for research on sustainable forestry technologies.
- \$1 billion for public education campaigns about deforestation.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal environmental protection budget.
- International environmental grants and donations from private organizations.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Reduced carbon emissions due to forest preservation.
- Protected habitats for wildlife and endangered species.

B. Economic Benefits:

- Job creation through reforestation projects.
- Increased availability of sustainable forest products.

C. Social Benefits:

- Healthier air quality and cleaner water sources.
- Greater environmental awareness among the public.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Cindy Lin, Grade 4

Natural Resources Committee

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A BILL TO REQUIRE PLANTS IN EVERY HOUSEHOLD (JANKIN)

PURPOSE: To improve air quality, reduce stress, and promote environmental awareness by requiring every household to maintain at least one living plant indoors.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Air pollution is harmful to human health, causing respiratory issues and allergies.
- Many people live in environments without access to nature, increasing stress and reducing well-being.
- Current environmental policies focus on outdoor conservation but overlook indoor environmental quality.
- Plants naturally clean the air, improve mood, and reduce carbon dioxide levels indoors.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

- A. Require that all households have at least one indoor plant.
- B. Encourage households to choose low-maintenance plants such as snake plants, pothos, or succulents.
- C. Create a free plant distribution program for low-income families through local gardening centers.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall:

- Partner with local garden centers to provide free plants to families in need.
- Launch a public campaign promoting the benefits of indoor plants.

B. Local Governments must:

- Organize annual plant-care workshops for the community.
- Inspect subsidized housing to ensure plants are provided where required.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$2 billion over 5 years

- \$800 million for plant distribution and transportation.
- \$700 million for community education and awareness programs.
- \$500 million for housing inspections and program monitoring.

B. Funding sources:

- Environmental protection and urban development grants.
- Corporate sponsorships from gardening companies.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Improved indoor air quality through natural filtration.
- Reduced carbon emissions from better indoor climate control.

B. Health Benefits:

- Reduced stress and improved mental health.
- Lower rates of allergies and respiratory illnesses.

C. Social Benefits:

- Increased environmental awareness and community engagement.
- Strengthened local economies through plant production and sales.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Jankin Shen, Grade 4

Natural Resources Committee

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Bills for the Model Congress Conference

A BILL TO REQUIRE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE SCHOOL BUS (LOUIS)

PURPOSE: To reduce traffic congestion, improve school attendance, and lower transportation costs by requiring students to take the school bus unless exceptions apply.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Many students rely on cars for transportation, causing traffic jams near schools.
- Traffic congestion leads to increased air pollution from car emissions.
- Some students miss school due to unreliable personal transportation.
- School bus systems are underused despite being cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Require that all eligible students take the school bus unless:

- They live within walking distance from the school (less than one mile).
- They have verified medical or special transportation needs.
- Their parents or guardians formally opt out through a school transportation waiver.

B. Ensure that schools provide safe and efficient bus routes.

C. Conduct annual reviews of bus usage and adjust routes as needed.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Department of Education shall:

- Fund school districts to expand and maintain bus fleets.
- Develop a national school bus route optimization system.
- Monitor bus usage and submit annual reports on the program's success.

B. Local school districts must:

- Hire qualified bus drivers and provide safety training.
- Publish school bus schedules and designated pickup/drop-off locations.
- Ensure that all school buses meet federal safety and environmental standards.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$15 billion over 10 years

- \$8 billion for bus fleet expansion and maintenance.
- \$5 billion for driver recruitment, training, and salaries.
- \$2 billion for route optimization technology and safety programs.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal transportation and education budgets.
- State-level education grants.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Reduced car emissions from fewer parent drop-offs.
- Improved air quality near schools.

B. Social and Educational Benefits:

- Increased school attendance due to reliable transportation.
- Reduced tardiness and missed school days.

C. Economic Benefits:

- Lower family transportation costs.
- Increased job creation in the school transportation sector.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on August 1, 2025, before the new school year begins.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Louis Luo, Grade 7

Agriculture Committee

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Bills for the Model Congress Conference

A BILL TO PROMOTE OCEAN EXPLORATION (YOUTAO aka Dudu)

PURPOSE:

To expand knowledge of Earth's oceans, predict natural disasters, and discover new species by increasing funding for advanced ocean exploration technologies.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- We currently lack detailed knowledge of ocean biodiversity and only understand about 5% of the ocean.
- Improved knowledge of oceanic processes can help predict natural disasters such as tsunamis and hurricanes.
- Scientists and researchers are hindered by limited resources and outdated technology.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Increase funding for the purchase of advanced ocean exploration technologies, including:

- AI-operated drones for remote exploration.
- High-definition cameras for capturing deep-sea ecosystems.
- Remote-controlled submarines for accessing uncharted regions of the ocean.

B. Raise taxes to fund these initiatives:

- Wealthy individuals will have a 2% tax increase.
- Less wealthy individuals will have a 0.9% tax increase.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will:

- Purchase and deploy exploration technologies.
- Conduct regular ocean exploration missions.
- Publish annual reports on exploration findings and advancements.

B. Hawaiian Ocean Technologies, Inc. will:

- Repair and maintain the exploration drones and submarines.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$150 million over 2 years

- \$50 million for AI-operated drones.
- \$50 million for cameras.
- \$50 million for remote-controlled submarines.

B. Funding sources:

- Raised taxes as outlined in Section 2B.
- NOAA budget allocations.
- Contributions from private marine research organizations.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Scientific Benefits:

- Enhanced understanding of ocean biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Ability to predict natural disasters more accurately.
- Discovery of new species and underwater habitats.

B. Environmental Benefits:

- Better protection for marine life and endangered species.
- Improved strategies for combating ocean pollution.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Dudu Cao, Grade 3

Science, Space, and Technology Committee

HMDC Model Congress (Fall 2024)

Bills for the Model Congress Conference

A BILL TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION (HANNAH)

PURPOSE:

To reduce plastic pollution by encouraging the use of sustainable alternatives, promoting recycling, and reducing reliance on single-use plastics to protect the environment and combat climate change.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Plastic pollution causes harm to the air, water, and land, contributing to global warming.
- Single-use plastics often end up in the environment, where they damage ecosystems and harm wildlife.
- Current recycling programs and alternatives to plastic are underutilized.
- Immediate action is needed to mitigate the harmful effects of plastic pollution on the planet.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Implement a ban on single-use plastics in all public spaces.

B. Encourage the use of sustainable alternatives such as:

- Paper and glass products.
- Compostable and biodegradable materials.

C. Establish community recycling bins in urban and rural areas.

D. Organize cleanup programs for beaches and public spaces with the help of volunteers.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will:

- Oversee the implementation of the ban on single-use plastics.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to educate the public on sustainable alternatives.
- Coordinate cleanup programs with local governments and volunteer organizations.

B. Local governments must:

- Enforce the ban on single-use plastics in their communities.
- Provide infrastructure for recycling and alternative waste disposal.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost: \$10 billion over 5 years

- \$4 billion for recycling bin installation and waste management.
- \$3 billion for public education and awareness campaigns.
- \$3 billion for cleanup operations and sustainable material development.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal environmental protection budgets.
- Taxes on the production and sale of single-use plastics.
- Donations and sponsorships from private environmental organizations.

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SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Environmental Benefits:

- Reduction in plastic pollution in oceans, rivers, and public spaces.
- Decrease in harmful greenhouse gas emissions caused by plastic production and disposal.

B. Health and Social Benefits:

- Safer environments for wildlife and cleaner ecosystems.
- Increased public engagement and awareness of environmental protection.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Hannah Wang, Grade 4

Science, Space, and Technology Committee

HMDC Model Congress (Fall 2024)

Bills for the Model Congress Conference

A BILL TO BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS (ANGELINA)

PURPOSE:

To regulate the sale, transfer, and possession of assault weapons in order to protect public safety and reduce gun violence across the nation.

SECTION 1: PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

- Assault weapons are designed for rapid fire and mass destruction, posing significant risks to public safety.
- Mass shootings and gun violence have increased in frequency and lethality due to the availability of assault weapons.
- Current regulations are insufficient to address the dangers posed by these firearms.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED CHANGES

The Federal Government shall:

A. Prohibit the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of assault weapons as defined below:

- **Assault Weapon:** Any semiautomatic firearm capable of accepting a detachable magazine or having a fixed magazine with a capacity greater than 10 rounds.
- **Specific Features:** Firearms with pistol grips, folding stocks, barrel shrouds, flash suppressors, or revolving cylinder shotguns.
- **Detachable Magazine:** Any magazine that can be removed without tools.

B. Require individuals who legally own assault weapons prior to this Act to:

- Register their firearms with the Department of Justice within 12 months.
- Surrender their firearms if they do not wish to register.

C. Establish a voluntary buyback program offering compensation for surrendered firearms.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

A. The Department of Justice shall:

- Create a registration and licensing program for existing assault weapon owners.
- Set application fees for licensing to cover processing costs.
- Conduct public education campaigns on the new regulations and buyback program.

B. Law enforcement agencies shall:

- Enforce the provisions of this Act.
- Issue penalties, confiscate firearms, and impose criminal charges for violations.

SECTION 4: FUNDING

A. Total estimated cost:

- Targeted buyback program: \$1–\$87 billion depending on scope.
- Registration and licensing: Millions annually.
- Public education campaigns: Tens to hundreds of millions annually.

B. Funding sources:

- Federal budget allocations for public safety and law enforcement.

HMDC Model Congress (Fall 2024)

Bills for the Model Congress Conference

SECTION 5: EXPECTED BENEFITS

A. Public Safety Benefits:

- Reduced availability of high-capacity firearms used in mass shootings.
- Decreased gun violence and firearm-related deaths.

B. Social Benefits:

- Increased public confidence in government efforts to ensure safety.
- Greater awareness and compliance with gun safety regulations.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect 180 days after its passage and enactment.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Angelina Chen, Grade 6

Energy and Commerce Committee