

PHSSL Super Session

SENATE

1 – A Bill to Reduce Carbon Emissions

2 – A Bill to Educate Jurors

3 – A Resolution to Give Student Loan Relief to Graduates Who Work in Public Service

4 – A Resolution to Aid Terminally Ill Adult Patients in Receiving Physician-Assisted Death

5 – A Resolution to Implement Current Events Curriculum in PA Schools

6 – A Bill to Limit Light Pollution to Protect Astronomical Observation

A BILL TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE

ASSEMBLED THAT:

Article I: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will choose the top 100 companies that contribute to the total carbon emissions in the whole United States.

Article II: The Environmental Protection Agency is an independent executive agency of the United States federal government tasked with environmental protection matters. Article III:

This bill shall go into effect 6 months after passage

Article IV: The United States Environmental Protection Agency shall oversee the enforcement and funding of this legislation

A. Upon the passing of this legislation, all companies chosen by the EPA will have a checkup every year in which they show progress of them transitioning to renewable energy sources or reducing their carbon emissions.

B. If the company does not comply yearly with proof that they are reducing their carbon emissions, they will pay a fine that equates to 5 percent of the value of the company.

C. All of the fine money that is collected will go back into the EPA. Article V: All other laws in conflict with this new policy shall hereby declared null and void.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Buestan

E.L Meyers

A BILL TO EDUCATE JURORS

Be it enacted by the PHSSL State Student Congress here assembled that:

- Section 1:** All jurors shall be educated as to the basic jargon and legal process prior to serving as a member of any jury in the state.
- Section 2:** All potential jurors will be given three months prior to the date at which they are to report for jury duty to complete a two-hour jury education program. Upon completion of the workshop, the jury will be issued a card testifying to its completion, as well as notification made on the person's jury summons record at the courthouse.
- Section 3:** These workshops will be the responsibility of each county's Jury Commissioners' Offices and the county employees responsible for jury selection. The format and times of the workshop will be determined by individual county Jury Commissioners' offices so as to best serve its jurors.
- Section 4:** Statewide Jury Commissioners offices should begin implementation of jury education programs at least six months after the passing of this bill, with complete implementation to occur by one year after its passing.
- Section 5:** Costs associated with jury education programs will be incorporated into the normal operating budget of each county's Jury Commissioners Office.
- Section 6:** A. This education process will be overseen by the county's Jury Commissioners Office and Sheriff Department.
- B. Any potential juror who does not fulfill his obligation to jury education will be issued a citation and a fine. Repeat offenses will result in jail time to be served.
- C. A first offense will be a citation and the opportunity to fulfill the jury education requirement within three months. If the juror does not comply, a citation will be issued and a \$100.00 fine assessed. A second offense will follow the same procedure with a \$200.00 fine assessment. The third act of negligence will result in the potential juror serving jail time as determined by a judge, of no more than three months, and placement on "juror probation." D. Subsequent refusals to comply will be subjected to established probation laws.
- Section 7:** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for the PHSSL State Student Congress by the Greater Latrobe School District

**A Resolution To Give Student Loan Relief To Graduates Who Work In Public
Service In The
Pennsylvania High School Speech League**

1 Whereas College costs have gone up more than 3000% in the past 50 years, while the cost of living has
2 gone up 482% in the same time frame, and
3 Whereas 45 million borrowers owe more than a combined 1.6 trillion dollars, and
4 Whereas Forbes reported that student loan debt is the second highest household debt (with only
5 mortgage payments higher), and
6 Whereas The majority of jobs in the US now require a four-year degree, and
7 Whereas Women and all people of color are impacted the most by student loan debt, and
8 Whereas The Brookings Institute reports that fewer than 15% of the workforce is public sector.
9 Whereas Those who work in public service make less than those with similar educations who work in the
10 private sector according to the Economic Policy Institute, and
11 Whereas Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said that student loan debt is holding back our economic growth;
12 now therefore be it
13 Resolved by the Congress here assembled that \$10,000 a year in public student loans be forgiven for each
14 year that a graduate works in a public service or in designated non-profit service career.
15 Be it further resolved that those in public service or in designated non-profit service can get prior credit for
16 up to two years of service.

A Resolution to Aid Terminally Ill Adult Patients in Receiving Physician-assisted Death

- 1 **WHEREAS,** Mentally capable adult patients (18 years+) voluntarily request aid to
2 hasten their inevitable death; and
- 3 **WHEREAS,** Terminally ill patients and their family and friends often wait for months or
4 years at a time in anticipation of the terminally ill patient's death; and
- 5 **WHEREAS,** Terminally ill patients should make their own end-of-life decisions to
6 determine how much pain and suffering they can endure; and
- 7 **WHEREAS,** A voluntary end-of-life option added to the continuum of end-of-life care,
8 terminally ill patients are given dignity, control, and peace of mind during
9 their final days with family and loved ones; now, therefore, be it
- 10 **RESOLVED,** That the Congress here assembled that terminally ill patients have the
11 option of physician-assisted death; and, be it
- 12 **FURTHER RESOLVED,** That terminally ill patient's wishes remain the driving force in their
13 end-of-life care decision.

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Introduced for Congressional Debate by North Hills High School.

A Resolution To Implement Current Events Curriculum In PA Schools

1 WHEREAS, It is essential that Americans be informed when voting for elected officials; and

2 WHEREAS, the rise of technology and social media has made it more difficult to distinguish

3 the truth about current events issues; and

4 WHEREAS, While a study conducted by professors from MIT and Columbia in partnership

5 with YouGov from 2018-2020 concluded that nearly 64% of voters could identify the most

6 important news story of the month, disparities still exist based on age, level of education,

7 socioeconomic status, race, gender, and political party; and

8 WHEREAS, An emphasis on current events in high school will serve as a step in the effort to

9 have a more informed voter population; and

10 WHEREAS, Many public elementary, middle, and high schools in America do not offer a

11 class or on current domestic or world events; and

12 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pennsylvania High School Speech League Student

13 Congress here assembled that a formal recommendation be made for the implementation of

14 current domestic and world events classes into the curriculum of all public schools as a course

15 lasting at least one semester per school year.

Respectfully submitted by

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School

A Bill to Limit Light Pollution to Protect Astronomical Observation

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT STUDENT CONGRESS

2 HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

3 **SECTION 1.** The purpose of this bill is to reduce artificial light pollution in national
4 wilderness areas under protection.

5 **SECTION 2.** “National wilderness areas under protection” means areas belonging to the
6 national wilderness preservation system.

7 “Light pollution” means the emission of artificial light into the
8 atmosphere.

9 **SECTION 3.** The Federal Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the
10 enforcement of this legislation.

11 A. By 2025 no national wilderness area under protection will have light
12 pollution increasing the natural nighttime light levels by more than
13 100%.

14 B. National wilderness areas under protection which fail to meet this
15 standard will immediately abdicate control of operations to the EPA.

16 **SECTION 4.** This bill shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

Introduced by The Kiski School