Congress 2014-2015

State Legislation Conference A

Legislation for Prelims and Finals are designated, but each chamber will set the order of its docket.

Congressional State competition *preliminary* round legislation may also be used at Invitational Congress meets. The *final* round legislation may ONLY be used at the State Meet.
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Legislation does not belong to the chamber until it has first been introduced by the author or sponsor. ESC authorship is designated. If none is designated (indicated by *), the legislation will be introduced by the State Congressional Debate Clerk and thus is open to a sponsorship speech by any school.
A Bill to Regulate Gun Range Safety

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Gun ranges will need to ensure that their instructors have completed a submachine gun instructor training program. Students of the instructor must complete a safety course, a standardized psychological assessment from a licensed psychologist, be at least 18 years old, and have learned to shoot using a single shot gun in order to handle a submachine gun.

SECTION 2. In order to provide clarification for this bill, some terms are defined below:

Gun Range- a specialized facility designed for firearms practice.

Psychological Assessment- a process of testing that uses a combination of techniques to help arrive at some hypotheses about a person and their behavior, personality, and capabilities.

SECTION 3. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will oversee and enforce gun range regulations.

A. Violations of gun range safety laws will be fined a maximum of $10,000 for each violation and renew their safety training.

SECTION 4. This plan must be implemented by December 2015.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Resolution to Decrease Waste

WHEREAS, Texas is the leading state in generating toxic chemicals, carbon dioxide emissions and hazardous waste with other oil-producing states following closely behind; and

WHEREAS, Oil production, in Texas alone, has doubled over the past two years with no indication of stopping; and

WHEREAS, Current processes and policies in regards to drilling, fracking and processing oil and natural gas are a large part of the production of toxic chemicals, carbon dioxide emissions and hazardous waste; and

WHEREAS, Regulating waste from drilling, fracking and processing oil and natural gas is environmentally sound and improves Texas’ as the lowest performing state in the nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the UIL Congress here assembled recommend to create a plan to improve standards of toxic chemicals, carbon dioxide emissions and hazardous waste materials in regards to drilling, fracking and processing oil and natural gas;
A Bill to change the evaluations of colleges to Raise graduation rates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All US colleges and universities will undergo a performance based evaluation process to receive federal funding each year.

SECTION 2. Performance based evaluation- a form of evaluation used at the end of each school year to determine if the institution has had an appropriate amount of students completing degree.

SECTION 3. US department of education will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

A. Evaluations will begin on June 15th to measure the previous fall, spring, and summer graduation rates.

B. Evaluations will be completed by Sept. 1st of the year to send out funding.

C. Schools who fail to meet required amount of degrees after the first year will be put on a probational period for a year.

D. After the second year of failing to meet standards schools will receive a decrease in 1.5% of federal funding.

SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect June 15, 2016

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
WHEREAS, Texas and 27 other states have passed laws that require an enhanced sentence, many times a life sentence, for a third conviction of certain felonies; and

WHEREAS, Many of these felonies are non violent in nature; and

WHEREAS, Federal prisons are over crowded and expensive to maintain; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory sentencing allows judges no discretion in sentencing, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled that the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 be amended to eliminate the Three Strikes provision.
A Resolution to Ban the Use of Private Prisons to Prevent Human Rights Abuses

WHEREAS, Private prisons are notorious for cutting corners to reduce costs, causing severe downgrades in quality of life for prisoners; and

WHEREAS, Prisoners at private prisons are frequently subject to dramatically worse conditions than those in government run federal prisons; and

WHEREAS, Texas is home to some of the largest private prisons in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Private prisons are known to have pervasive overcrowding, squalid conditions, insufficient medical care, and overuse of isolation units; and

WHEREAS Private prisons have little incentive to promote rehabilitation; therefore, so be it

RESOLVED, That the UIL Congress here assembled ban the use of private prisons; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all private prisons that have violated federal and state laws will be prosecuted accordingly.
A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Protect the Right of Writs of Habeas Corpus

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

WHEREAS, The right of Writs of Habeas Corpus is one of the few rights given to the people in the main text of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Measures to suspend this right on a national scale have been taken six times since the US’s founding; and

WHEREAS, At least two of these measures have been found to be unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, The right is currently not granted to non-citizens living in the United States that would otherwise be subject to United States law; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the UIL Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE --

SECTION 1: No person in the United States shall be denied the right of Writs of Habeas Corpus, and neither State nor Congress shall make any law with intent to abridge this right.

SECTION 2: The UIL Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
A Bill Regarding Campaign Finance

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by this congress here assembled that we hereby
eliminate and disband all Super PACS and/or outside groups supporting
congressional and presidential campaigns.

SECTION 2. Campaign contributions will be limited to a total of $50,000 per
candidate, per campaign. This includes individual contributions, local and
national party contributions as any other contributing entities.

SECTION 3. created for the purpose of advocating or assisting a candidate in
an election.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into full implementation immediately and
be implemented for the 2016 Presidential election.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to re-purpose all vacant government buildings as residences for the homeless

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Any federal building which has been decommissioned from active use shall be ceded to state authorities and retrofitted for utilization as self-contained apartments for qualified homeless individuals and their families.

SECTION 2. Qualification for residency shall be determined by length of time without a permanent residence; lack of reliable income; and availability of resources.

SECTION 3. This shall be carried about by a combination of federal and state officials.

A. Such as the housing and urban development department or its equivalent.

SECTION 4. This will be an ongoing project. Any government building currently vacant will be transformed immediately, and any buildings which become vacant will be transferred and transformed as they become available.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Expand Access to Mental Health Care for the Low Socio-Economic American Citizens

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States federal government will hereby mandate that all states follow the federal default for state essential health benefits in order to eliminate state bias for the mentally ill.

SECTION 2. Mentally ill - a term that describes the disorder of the mind that could be of emotional or physical origin.

SECTION 3. The government agency responsible for the enforcement of this bill is the United States Department of Health and Human Services. It will oversee the project and will monitor that the states are following the federal default.

SECTION 4. The following bill will be implemented and criterions will be met by August 1, 2015.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States embargo against the nation of Cuba will be completely and fully abolished.

SECTION 2. The Cuban Embargo, a restriction on international trade between the United States and Cuba since February 7th 1962.

SECTION 3. The State Department will declare an end to the United States embargo against Cuba, allowing trade to resume.

SECTION 4. This shall take effect July 1st, 2016.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Require All Law Enforcement Officers to Wear Body Cameras in the Line of Duty

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All Law Enforcement Officers while in the line of duty shall be required to wear Axon (or comparable) Body Camera Devices with both audio and video capabilities.

SECTION 2. Body Camera Devices are defined as body camera/devices that use both sight and sound, in the form of video, to record speech and movement.

SECTION 3. There have been an increasing number of questionable incidents in the United States involving Law Enforcement Officers and charges of police brutality, racial profiling, as well as charges of wrongful shootings and death.

A. An audio/video recording would provide the “real time” accounting of each incidence.

B. An audio/video recording would provide facts that are sometime missed, overlooked, or hidden in an on-going investigation.

C. All rules/regulations for the use/handling of the Audio/Video devices will be regulated and supervised by the US Department of Justice.

SECTION 4. This law would go into effect 6 months after passage with funding appropriated by and under the direct authorization of the US Department of Justice.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Resolution to Lower Mercury Emissions given off by Coal-Fired Power Plants

WHEREAS, Coal-fired power plants are releasing large quantities of Mercury into the environment,

WHEREAS, The pollutants contaminate thousands of acres of land and water; and

WHEREAS, Texas has become the number one state in the nation for contributing to the Mercury pollution crisis that increases each year; and

WHEREAS, The human and wildlife population is being affected by the Mercury in ways that slow growth, cause birth defects, and in some cases cause death; and

WHEREAS, Each year thousands of pounds of Mercury are released into the air and comes down as acid rain that contaminates plants and bodies of water; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the UIL Congress here assembled lower Mercury emissions by creating mandatory filter alterations in coal-fired power plants.

WHEREAS, current international law does little to regulate seawater pollution caused by human actions, which has, in recent years, becoming an increasingly pressing environmental issue; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of such a piece of legislation would likely encourage the further investigation of deep sea resources internationally that would among other things, benefit the U.S and its Allies economically and;

WHEREAS, the current escalation of the South China Sea conflict between China and Japan has become increasingly harmful to United States interest in the region; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of UNCLOS would determine a twelve mile territorial sea limit and a two hundred mile economic sea limit that would help to set maritime borders between countries and would likely help to deescalate the aforementioned conflict; and

Whereas, the United states should not become directly involved in the South China Sea, rather set an example, and encourage peace in the region with the ratification of UNCLOS ; and

WHEREAS, the United States should work to protect civilian and military freedom of navigation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this assembled UIL congress strongly encourage a timely vote on the U.N Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to prevent further escalation of the South China Sea conflict and in order to reduce maritime pollution.
A Resolution to Ban the Sale, Transfer, Manufacturing, Importation, and Possession of Semi-Automatic Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines in the United States to Civilians

WHEREAS, the sale, transfer, manufacturing, importation, and possession of semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity magazines to civilians has increased; and

WHEREAS, this increase can be linked to an increase in violent crime involving assault weapons and high capacity magazines; and

WHEREAS, sale and possession of these weapons by civilians puts persons residing or visiting the United States at risk for potentially deadly harm; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation of the Second Amendment by the Supreme Court allows the limitation of the type of weapon carried by civilians, be it

RESOLVED, that the UIL Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to ban the sale, transfer, manufacturing, importation, and possession of assault weapons and high capacity magazines to civilians in the United States.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Congress has the power to amend or declare void any laws in conflict with this bill.
A Bill to Increase Funding for Ebola Research to prevent a worldwide epidemic of a deadly disease

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Increasing the funding on Ebola will aim to stop a transmission worldwide

SECTION 2. An increase on research will issue a roadmap to coordinate a response to the outbreak on the Ebola Virus.

SECTION 3. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention will be in charge of all research and prevention tactics.

SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect on January 3, 2015

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to De-Militarize the Merida Initiative to Focus on the Social Issues in Latin America

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States will stop funding the military section of the Merida Initiative in order to turn its attention to the troubling social issues in Latin America.

SECTION 2. The Merida Initiative will direct its funding towards solving issues such as human rights, rural developmental aid, public health, poverty, and disaster assistance.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of State of Western Hemisphere Affairs will be responsible for the implementation of this bill.

SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect on January 01, 2015.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Limit Executive Power by Amending the War Powers Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The President of the United States will be required to seek Congressional authorization prior to any use of military force.

SECTION 2. Use of military force is defined as any aggressive or coercive action taken by United States Armed Forces, including, but not limited to: air strikes, use of drones and/or deployment of ground forces.

SECTION 3. If Congress fails to give authorization, no military action will be taken.

Violation of the act may result in Articles of Impeachment being filed.

A. The President of the United States will no longer be allowed to pursue up to 60 days of unauthorized military action under an amendment to the War Powers Act of 1973.

SECTION 4. This bill will go into effect on January 5, 2015.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to repeal No Child Left Behind Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THIS UIL CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 SECTION 1. the “No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act” is to be repealed

3 SECTION 2. Each state’s State Education Agency (SEA) will oversee the enforcement

4 of the bill.

5 SECTION 4. Implementation will be one year following the above listed action.

6 SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Resolution to Ban Medical Malpractice Suits

WHEREAS, Doctors must pay thousands of dollars toward insurance fees which are forced to be passed down to patients; and

WHEREAS, Millions of people cannot afford health-care due to skyrocketing prices;

WHEREAS, Many tests, procedures, referrals, consultations, and hospitalizations are ordered just to avoid lawsuits, raising health-care to at least $200 billion nationally; and

WHEREAS, The number of Americans who die because of the lack of health-care continues to grow despite easing of obstacles to decrease health-care by lifting medical malpractice suits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress assembled ban the use of medical malpractice suits in the United States.
A Resolution to Grant NASA’s Funding Requests

WHEREAS, NASA as it is today is severely underfunded, particularly due to recent budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, Since 1990 NASA’s budget has steadily decreased as a percentage of US national expenditures, falling from over 1% to less than 0.55 of the national budget, thus reflective of American political focus; and

WHEREAS, Space is becoming an increasingly pivotal tool of foreign policy in which the United States is falling behind and is surpassed in by many other nations; and

WHEREAS, It is potentially devastating and harmful for the United States to lose this position as it is through this that it is allowed and enabled to maintain a further degree of hegemony and global influence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled make the following recommendation to encourage spending and research by NASA and for funding requests from NASA shall henceforth be more frequently approved; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That no grant shall exceed the estimated cost of $30 billion.