

GEORGIA FORENSIC COACHES ASSOCIATION

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Fall Legislation

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**THIS PACKET IS INTENDED FOR USE AT GFCFA TOURNAMENTS
SEPTEMBER 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 2015.**

**IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR TOURNAMENTS TO USE. EACH TOURNAMENT CAN ADD/MODIFY
THE PACKET IN ANY WAY.**

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

I collected, wrote and edited the collection of bills and resolutions for the Fall Legislation Docket. I wanted to share my thoughts and inspirations when making the docket.

First, early season legislation needs to have some overlap with other debate events to promote entry crossover by students. Therefore, you see legislation #1 and #2 have ties to the 2015-2016 policy debate resolution, legislation #4 has ties to 2015 September/October public forum resolution, and legislation #6 and #7 have ties to the 2015 September/October lincoln douglas resolution. Evidence for all five of these pieces of legislation can easily be found on the internet using resources like the NDCA Open Evidence Project, the Dartmouth Debate Institutes Public Forum Wikispaces page, and the Utah Beehive Forensic Institute.

Second, early season legislation needs to teach basic congressional debate skills like how to debate economic resolutions/bills and international treaties. Legislation #3 and #5 are included as we have not debated these hotly contested Congressional issues. Despite their controversy, the GFCA has never debated these issues in a GFCA published docket.

Lastly, early season legislation needs to include legislation that is good for novice-level debaters. I have included the marijuana bill because it seems that every high school speaker and debater wants to debate this issue. I also included to ensure that the legislation would not make an appearance at the 2016 Varsity State Championship.

If you have any questions about the legislation or the writing process of legislation, feel free to find me at any tournament or email me at jmill126@gmail.com. I encourage other coaches to try writing the Winter Legislation Docket to help shape the way Congress is debated in Georgia. If you are interested, email Brandon Kendall at Kendall.brandon@fcboe.org.

Thanks!

Jeffrey Miller
Director of Speech & Debate
Marist School

RULES & PROCEDURES FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT

- 1. Rules provided herein are primary;** followed by the National Speech & Debate Association rules. These ensure procedural consistency among chambers, and cannot be altered or suspended.
- 2. Decorum-** Each congressional chamber is designated as either a House or a Senate. House members should be referred to as “Representatives” and Senate members should be referred to as “Senators”. The Presiding Officer, responsible for enforcing proper decorum, should be addressed as Mister/Madam Speaker (House) or Mister/Madam President (Senate). The start of **EVERY** session the Presiding Officer shall lead the chamber in the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Practice of “open chambers” is absolutely prohibited.
- 3. Technology in Chambers** – The Georgia Forensic Coaches Association rules allow for laptop computers and similar products in debate events. Students may access the internet using the GFCFA rules/guidelines for research in the session. Students using laptops for non-Congress related business in chambers are subject to disqualification.
- 4. Speaker Recognition** – Precedence and recency is the required method for recognizing speakers. Speaking order resets at the end of each session.
- 5. Speaker Times** – All speeches at the GFCFA State Tournament have a time limit of three (3) minutes. Unused speaking time may or may not be rolled into any questioning periods, and is to be decided by the speaker.
- 6. Questioning** – A mandatory two-minute questioning period follows all AUTHORSHIP, SPONSORSHIP, and FIRST NEGATIVE speeches on each legislation. The Presiding Officer recognizes legislators who wish to ask a question of a speaker; the speaker **MAY NOT** perform this function him/herself. Establishing a permanent questioning period or abolishing all questioning periods are not permitted. The PO should rule “two-part,” misleading, prefaced, or irrelevant questions **OUT-OF-ORDER**.
- 7. Agenda Order** – Each chamber sets its own agenda order for the Preliminary Competition Session through informal caucus. The proposed agenda order must receive approval by a simple majority vote of the chamber.
- 8. Legislation without an author** – If the author of a bill or resolution – or his/her teammate – is not present in the chamber, withdraws from the tournament, or relinquishes authorship rights, then a SPONSORSHIP speech is in order. This right does **NOT** apply to “twin chamber” legislation **IF** legislation from that same school has already been debated in that chamber.
- 9. Voting** –The PO determines method of voting on each question before the chamber. Notes on voting:
 - a. Final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal the chair require a recorded vote.
 - b. Voice voting is acceptable for all other votes, but a recorded vote must be taken if any legislator calls for a division of the chamber.

c. Roll call votes are prohibited.

d. ALL simple majority votes are based upon the number of legislators PRESENT and VOTING in the chamber; therefore, the PO does not need to call for or count abstentions.

e. For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, 1/5, etc.), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators PRESENT in the chamber at the time of the vote. Because of this system, the PO must track the number of legislators in the chamber at all times.

10. **Amendments** – Legislators submit amendments to the PO in writing. A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment; such a motion is in order members PRESENT in the chamber is required to debate the amendment. If the chamber votes a anytime after the author/sponsor speech. Once the motion is made, the PO decides if the amendment is germane. The PO may consult with the Parliamentarian to make this decision. If the amendment is deemed to be NOT germane, the chair rules it Out of Order and the amendment process stops. If the chair rules the amendment germane, s/he should read the contents of the amendment to the chamber. A 1/3 second of the second, debate on the amendment commences immediately. Legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time. The first speech on the amendment is a SPONSORSHIP speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the SPONSORSHIP speech on the basis of precedence/recency; the author of the amendment is NOT guaranteed the sponsorship speech. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning. All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards precedence/recency. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment.

11. **Overtime Penalty** – Any regular floor speech that extends more than ten (10) seconds beyond the maximum speaking time of three minutes shall be penalized one (1) full point by the Scorer(s) evaluating the session. The Presiding Officer is required to keep the accurate time of each speech and report it to the Scorer(s) when the speaker has finished. The Parliamentarian/Scorer(s) shall heavily penalize a Presiding Officer for inaccurate timing and/or reporting. Additionally, judges are instructed to consider overtime speaking in their assessment of legislators for nomination/ranking purposes.

12. **Authorship Penalty** – A Scorer may reduce the score given to the author of a bill/resolution for his/her authorship speech if the legislation contains factual/grammatical errors (no penalty for technical formatting issues).

A BILL TO CREATE THE DEPARTMENT OF CYBER SECURITY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1. The US Congress will construct the Department of Cyber Security in an effort to prevent cyber attacks on the United States.
- Section 2. A cyber attack is an offensive maneuver employed by entities that target computer networks and infrastructures by the means of malicious acts. This department will handle foreign or domestic entities that engage in cyber attacks endangering national security and/or the US economy.
- Section 3. Upon the creation of the department, the President will nominate a Secretary of Cyber Security, who will head the initiatives of this department. The President and the Vice President will work with the Speaker of the House to seek approval from the Senate. The Presidential Succession Act of 1947 will be amended to add the Secretary of Cyber Security to the bottom of the line of succession. The department will be in charge of carrying out the provisions of the Comprehensive National Cyber Security Initiative (CNCI) to set Cyber Security standards. If needed, the Secretary of Cyber Security can collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security and/or the NSA to ensure Cyber Security efficiency.
- Section 4. This bill will be implemented by January, 2017.
- Section 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A BILL TO PROHIBIT BACKDOOR TECHNOLOGY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. The United States Congress should prohibit creation of backdoors and use of backdoors from companies in the United States.

Section 2. A backdoor is an undocumented way of gaining access to a program, online service or an entire computer system. The backdoor is written by the programmer who creates the code for the program. It is often only known by the programmer.

Section 3. The National Security Administration will oversee the implementation of this bill.

Section 4. This bill will be implemented by January 2017.

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

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A BILL TO FULLY FUND ITER

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1. The United States shall increase its investment to fully fund its obligations to the development of International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).
- Section 2. Development is defined as investing money for the sole purpose of creating the technology, either unilaterally or as part of an international group.
- Section 3. This bill will be enforced by the Department of Energy.
- Section 4. The bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2016 fiscal year.
- Section 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A RESOLUTION TO PAY REPARATIONS

WHEREAS, African Americans still suffer from institutional racism that affects their access to education, housing and medical centers.

WHEREAS, there were an average of over 1.6 million acts of rental discrimination against African Americans each year and an additional 190,000-plus cases of housing sales discrimination each year.

WHEREAS, African-Americans experience 30 to 40 percent poorer health outcomes than white Americans which leads not only to shortened lives and increased illness, but also costs the nation more than \$60 billion in lost productivity each year.

WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of African Americans who enrolled in college but did not finish said that they left college because of high student loan debt, as opposed to 43 percent of white students.

WHEREAS, reparations can be given in forms of direct cash transfers, increased access to hospitals, the development of baby bonds, and other methods to help end institutional discrimination.

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled pay reparations to African Americans.

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE OTTAWA TREATY

WHEREAS, The United States has thus far refused to ratify the 1997 United Nations Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention; and

WHEREAS, American refusal to ratify the treaty undermines our commitment to international norms and law, along with sending a signal of United States hypocrisy; and

WHEREAS, This allows other countries to continue using anti-personnel mines with no fear of international consequences or reprisal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled recommend that the United States ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction to prohibit the introduction of anti-personnel landmines into hostilities.

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A RESOLUTION TO STANDARDIZE CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

WHEREAS, Standards for childhood vaccinations vary across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Existing exemptions for childhood vaccinations are frequently exploited; and

WHEREAS, Many vaccinated diseases are highly contagious and over 145,000 deaths were reported globally from Measles alone in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Most childhood vaccines are 90%-100% effective at producing disease immunity; and

WHEREAS, No credible scientific evidence exists negating the benefits of current childhood vaccinations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the United States implement a federal standard requiring all children under five years of age to be fully vaccinated in order to attend any school receiving federal funding; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, the only exceptions to this should be for individuals who have documented medical reasons for not receiving particular vaccines and/or those with documented membership in objecting religious organizations

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A BILL TO ELIMINATE FEDERAL GENDER CATEGORIZATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. The United States Congress should:

- A) Repeal the REAL ID Act and eliminating the requirement for listing gender on driver's licenses and state ID cards.
- B) further update the passport gender marker policy to allow for certification of gender change by licensed therapists, psychologists, and nurse practitioners, and to eliminate remaining burdensome procedural requirements.
- C) eliminate computer matching of gender data in all remaining data-matching programs.
- D) issue an updated Model State Vital Statistics Act that provides for gender change on birth certificates based on certification from a mental health or medical provider, without proof of specific medical or surgical procedures and without a court order
- E) should review all new government forms and updates to forms to eliminate collection of gender data in cases where it does not serve a clear programmatic purpose.

Section 2. Gender refers to the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex.

Section 3. This bill will be enforced by the Department of Justice.

Section 4. The bill will go into effect by 2018.

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

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.

A BILL TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- Section 1. All marijuana products become legal to possess, use, distribute, and grow in all US states and territories.
- Section 2. All those who are in the US prison system solely on charges concerning the possession, use, distribution, or growing of marijuana be released by June 30, 2016.
- Section 3. All current regulations, taxes and other laws concerning cigarettes will be applied to marijuana.
- Section 4. This bill will go into effect by January 2016.
- Section 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Legislation introduced by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.