

34th ANNUAL TENNESSEE YMCA

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SPONSORED BY THE YMCA CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



March 24, 2021

Democracy must be learned by each generation.

TENNESSEE YMCA

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Sponsored by the YMCA Center for Civic Engagement

March 24, 2021 CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:00 – 9:15AM	Orientation and Training
9:15 – 12:00PM	House & Senate Committees
12:00 – 1:00PM	Lunch
1:00 – 3:45PM	House & Senate Sessions
3:45– 4:00PM	Closing Ceremony

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

YIG ROSTER

Last	First	School	Component	Comm.	Bill #
Adair	Addison	Legacy Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-6
Adams	Colin	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-9
Alghussein	Abraham	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-3
Allen	Claire	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-7
Allen	Ben	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-8
Alley	Daniel	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-2
Anderson	Brooke	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-8
Armentor	Ethan	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-6
Ash	Evan	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-7
Baker	Chloe	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-4
Baldwin	Henry	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-3
Bandel	Brilyn	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-9
Barcenilla	Grayson	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-3
Barnes	Paxton	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-5
Bennett	Livia	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-8
Bernheisel	Clare	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-8
Blevins	Cole	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-3
Bobo	Cale	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-8
Bocanegra	Ivan	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-9
Bohannon	Peyton	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-7
Bohman	Keira	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-5
Borden	Tyler	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-5
Boyd	Henley	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-3
Bradley-Shoup	Emmaline	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-2
Brekke	Mary Frances	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-4
Brill	Zander	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-8
Brimmage	Meredith	Legacy Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-6
Britt	Kathryn	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-3
Brown	Jayden	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-8
Brown	Ruth	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-4
Bryant	Rhianna	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-2
Buckley	Maren	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-2
Bursi	Cora	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-9
Butler	Eliana	Legacy Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-6
Cantrell	Acheena	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-8
Carbonari	Noah	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-4
Carollo	Ella	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-1
Causey	Addison	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-5
Chakraborty	Ananya	Baylor School	Red House	H-3	RH-3-7
Challa	Snigdha	East Hamilton Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-7
Chambless	Emily	Legacy Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-5
Chandra	Alisha	Baylor School	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-8
Chapman	Edith	Legacy Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-5
Chivers	Petal	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-7
Cooper	Ava	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-3	RH-3-2
Cox	John	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-4
Crane	Emma	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-2
Crighton	Teddy	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-8
Crighton	Madeleine	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-8

Crow	Cassidy	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-6
Curtis	Trevor	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-5
D'Amico	Quinn	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-7
Daniel	Benjamin	Baylor School	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-2
Davis	Jackson	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-5
Davis	Keiron	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-2
Davis	Hudson	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-6
Davis	Aoife	Signal Mountain Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-7
Densman	Hannah	Heritage Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-3
Dillion	Eli	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-6
Dodda	Shreeyans	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-7
Dong	Shanina	Baylor School	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-5
Doty	Briana	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-3
Duffy	Reason	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-3	RH-3-2
Duggan	McKenzie	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-2
Dunn	Lincoln	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-4
Eads	Evan	Heritage Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-1
Eckert	Brennan	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-4
Farris	Luke	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-1
Fite	Brooklyn	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-1
Flowers	Charlotte	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-9
Fojas	Michael	Heritage Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-3
Forsythe	Grady	Dyersburg Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-6
Friberg	Isabel	Legacy Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-5
Gardner	Julia	Baylor School	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-8
Garges	Russell	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-3
Gibson	Ryan	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-6
Gingerich	Jakob	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-3
Glass	Lucas	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-1
Golden	Gracie	East Hamilton Middle	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-1
Gordon	Peyton	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-9
Gore	Dane	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-3
Goss	Annabelle	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-8
Greathouse	Landon	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-1
Greco	Mia	Heritage Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-3
Green	Anabelle	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-7
Greeson	Jerry	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-8
Gullett	Shelby	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-6
Gupta	Jai	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-3
hanzely	Keegan	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-7
Harrell	Kathleen	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-3
Harvey	Sean	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-9
Haynes	Lily	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-7
Haynie	Logan	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-3
Headrick	Brodi	Baylor School	Red House	H-2	RH-2-1
Hemphill	Luciana	Baylor School	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-8
Hendren	Caroline	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-6
Henry	Cullen	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-4
Hickham	Nathan	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-3
Hickman	Carli	Hixson Middle	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-2

Hinson	Avery	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-7
Holden	Palmer	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-9
Holloway	Hailey	Heritage Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-5
Huskey	Alex	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-8
Innes	Bess	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-2
Ivey	Ashlynn	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-3	RH-3-2
Jiang	Alex	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-6
Joels	Matilda	Baylor School	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-4
Johnson	Hunter	Heritage Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-9
Jones	Olivia	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-3
Justice	Judi Kaye	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-4
Kallberg	Finn	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-4
kallberg	Sydney	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-6
Keates-Baleeiro	Carlos	Baylor School	Red House	H-2	RH-2-1
Keene	Bailey	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-9
Kelley	Allie	Heritage Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-5
Killingsworth	Kinsley	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-2
Kramer	Kacy	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-8
Krupek	AnnaRose	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-1
Lassiter	Hannah	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-8
Lewis	Vance	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-5
Lima	Sofia	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-6
Little	Samuel	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-5
Luker	Roman	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-1
MacArthur	Alexa	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-8
Martinez	Sarah	Dyersburg Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-6
Martzall	Layla	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-1
McKenna	Owen	Baylor School	Red House	H-1	RH-1-2
McLin	Taniyah	Dyersburg Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-9
Meadows	Kate	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-5
Miles	Titus	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-8
Miller	Campbell	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-1
Moffett	Russell	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-2
Morency	Robert	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-3	RH-3-4
Morgan	Murphy Mae	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-7
Morton	Chase	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-7
Morton	Lillian	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-2
Murphy	Eavie	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-4
Nicastro	Emily	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-4
Nolen	Bailey	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-8
Oakes	Austin	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-4
O'Neill	Asher	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-1
Painter	Levi	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-6
Patel	Aarya	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-8
Patel	Bindi	Signal Mountain Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-7
Patel	Aayush	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-1
Patmor	Karan	Heritage Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-9
Peacock	Ella	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-6
Pearce	Carson	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-7
Pearson	Lauren	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-3

Pedroza	Layla	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-2
Peek	Reed	Legacy Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-3
peila	sophia	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-6
Pendleton	Jack	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-4
Pewitt	Mamie	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-7
Pittman	Samuel	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-1
Praino	Adrianna	Hixson Middle	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-2
Proctor-Bjorgo	Cheyenne	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-7
Rangareddygar	Seetharama	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-3	RS-3-1
Rea	Jackson	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-4
Revell	John Walker	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-5
Rhem	Margot	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-1
Rivers	Kobe	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-4
Rogers	Will	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-4
Romero	Jack	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-1
Rothfuss	Libby	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-7
Roy	Sofia	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-5
Rudiger	Peyton	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-3	RH-3-4
Rummo	Laney	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-6
Ryan	Piper	Baylor School	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-5
Sabatini	Mia	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-9
Sargent	Carson	Heritage Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-5
Sartin	Thomas	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-9
Schultz	Odin	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-3
Seay	Brynlee	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-4
Seratt	Ava	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-8
Shah	Janvi	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-5
Shell	Ashlyn	East Hamilton Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-7
Sherrard	Joseph	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-8
Simpson	George	Baylor School	Red House	H-3	RH-3-7
Smith	Beaux	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-6
Snyder	Carver	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-6
Spencer	Ryan	East Hamilton Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-9
Stanley	Jacob	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-3
Staton	Grier	Hillsboro EMS	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-1
Stubblefield	Hank	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-1
Sullivan	Aidan	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-2
Sveadas	Hudson	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-1
sweetman	clayton	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-6
Teising	Annette	Heritage Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-1
Teising	Isabelle	Heritage Middle	Red House	H-3	RH-3-1
Thach	McCoyler	Dyersburg Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-5
Thomas	Gifty	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-5
Tojaga	Imad	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-6
Tomescu	Colin	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-6
Tran	Nam	East Hamilton Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-4
Van Hoveln	Isabelle	Hillsboro EMS	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-3
Vaughn	Jacob	Legacy Middle	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-3
Warwick	Jack	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-2	RH-2-8
Way	Landon	Hillsboro EMS	Red House	H-1	RH-1-3

Waye	Bailee	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-2	RH-2-4
Weaver	Cairo	Heritage Middle	Blue House	H-5	BH-5-3
Weaver	Waylon	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-1
Weaver	Jackson	East Hamilton Middle	Red Senate	S-1	RS-1-4
Wheeler	Callaway	Signal Mountain Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-5
Williams	Holden	Dyersburg Middle	Red House	H-1	RH-1-8
Wilson	Allyssa	Dyersburg Middle	Red Senate	S-2	RS-2-9
Woodside	Beck	Hillsboro EMS	Blue House	H-4	BH-4-8
Wright	Madison	East Hamilton Middle	Blue Senate	S-1	BS-1-7
Wright	Olivia	East Hamilton Middle	Blue Senate	S-2	BS-2-1
Yang	Hanna	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-9
Young	Torin	Signal Mountain Middle	Blue House	H-6	BH-6-6
Zamzow	Meredith	Dyersburg Middle	Blue Senate	S-3	BS-3-7

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMITTEE PROCESS

What should delegates do during committee?

1. Evaluate Bills

- Evaluate bills using the criteria on the ranking form, i.e., Presentation, Feasibility, Statewide Impact, Research, and Content.
- Will the end result be a meaningful contribution to a value-oriented society?
- Will it have a positive effect on a significant number of citizens?
- Is its issue worthy of legislative consideration?
- Is the bill in conflict with the Constitution? (And if so, then has the bill been written in the form of a Constitutional Amendment?)
- Does the bill provide for the concise accomplishment of its intended purposes?

2. Make Amendments

- Proposed amendments given in committee should be attached to the respective bill, with the proponents name(s) (persons offering the amendment) listed on the amendment. Any delegate may propose an amendment on any bill. The committee will vote on the proposed amendment. In order to submit an amendment for vote, use only the proper amendment form, and clearly indicate whether the amendment is FAVORABLE or UNFAVORABLE to its patrons.
- A majority vote is required to pass an amendment in committee. Proponents should be prepared to present and defend the amendment on the floor as debate will take place on an amendment if it is deemed unfriendly by the bill patrons.
- Committee proposed amendments will be considered on the floor.

3. Debate (The rules for debate are listed in the Rules of Procedure)

4. Rank Bills

- After each bill has been considered and some action has been taken, the committee will rank the respective bill. Red House/Senate bills will be ranked separately from Blue House/Senate bills.
- Each BILL TEAM will rank each bill on the ranking form provided, based upon the instructions given by the Chair. (This means each team will fill out only ONE ranking sheet.)
- Please be sure to write legibly on your ranking form. If there are any questions regarding legibility, the form in question will be thrown out.

SCRIPT FOR CCE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DEBATE

by Tucker Cowden, MHMS

*Outside of this guide, consult additional TN YMCA CCE supplements and Robert's Rules of Order

*Script is written with the assumption of more than one patron for the bill. If there is only one presenting patron, change statements to the singular (i.e. "Does the Patron" instead of "Do the Patrons").

Overview

Youth in Government (YIG) debate should be seen in the context of the actual Tennessee General Assembly, where delegates act as State Senators and Representatives and the items debated are called **bills**. Because of this setting, YIG delegates should have well-developed opinions on important state issues. This applies especially to the bill that you are presenting. It should address not only an issue that the delegates think is important, but one that is relevant to the current affairs of Tennessee and could actually be introduced to the General Assembly, and it should be **very well-researched**. Furthermore, delegates are to be completely in character, acting as if YIG were the actual TN General Assembly (so refer to the conference as "the state of Tennessee" or "the House/Senate" (depending on which you are a delegate in)).

Asking Technical Questions (after being recognized by the chair)

Speaker: [States Name, States School, States **One** Question (must be a question that merits a response of yes, no, a number, a definition, or a short, expository rather than persuasive answer) (the question is directed to the presenting delegates)]

Con/Pro Debate (after being recognized)

*Delegates may take one or two of the three actions listed below (ask questions, speak to the floor, yield time to another delegate), but may not only yield time to another delegate (you can only ask questions or only speak, but cannot only yield time). Also, if you are yielding time, you must ask to do this **before** beginning your speech or questions, and then state that you yield your time when you are finished with the first part.

Speaker: (States Name, States School) and...

To Ask A Series of Questions

Speaker: Do the Patrons yield to a possible series of questions? (**Not:** “a series of possible questions,” or “a question.”)

Chair: They do so yield

Speaker: (To Patrons) (Asks Questions and receives answers for up to two minutes, depending on the committee/house’s time structure).

*It is important to note that questions asked as a Con speech should seek to criticize, or at least show skepticism for, the given bill. Those asked as a Pro speech should do the opposite, emphasizing the positive aspects of the bill.

To Address the Assembly

Speaker: May I address the floor?

Chair: That is your right.

Speaker: (Speaks to fellow delegates, not the patrons, for the allotted amount of time either in favor of (pro speech) or against (con speech) the bill).

*You should never use the words “Con” or “Pro” in your speech unless referring to “a previous con speaker,” etc. Con and Pro are not nouns or verbs that can be used to show your support or dislike of a bill (so **do not** say “I con this bill”).

To Yield Remaining time after one of the above to a fellow delegate:

Speaker: May I yield the remainder of my time to a fellow delegate?

Chair: That is your right. Please specify a delegate.

Speaker: [Names the delegate to be yielded to (refer to him/her by last name)]
(Takes first action)

*Delegates being yielded to should have the same opinion (pro or con) on the bill as the speakers that yield to them.

Motions (must be made before the last con speech)

Speaker: (Shouts) Motion!

Chair: Rise and state your motion.

Speaker: (States Name, States School, States Motion—see table of motions in delegate manual)

Chair: [Takes it from there (decides if the motion is in order or not, asks for a second to the motion, and conducts a vote, usually by voice acclamation)]

FORMAT FOR DEBATE

I. Committee

Two minutes - Introduction

Two minutes - Technical Questions

+/-Five minutes - Con/pro debate

One minute - Summation

Amendments

One minute - Introduction

Three rounds - Con/pro debate

One minute - Summation

II. House/Senate

Two minutes - Introduction

Two minutes - Technical Questions

Five rounds - Con/pro debate

One minute - Summation

SAMPLE COMMITTEE RANKING FORM

Best 1...2...3...4...5 Worst

	Bill #	Innovation	Feasibility	Statewide Impact	Content & Research	Presentation	Total
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Introductory Note: Youth in Government (YIG) is modeled after the Tennessee General Assembly. The circumstances at YIG require many of its rules of procedure to vary from the practices of the General Assembly. In questions or issues not addressed by the following rules, the YMCA Center for Civic Engagement staff may look to other authorities for guidance.

I. Presentation of Bills or Resolutions

- A. Patrons of bills should make every effort to write a bill in compliance with the expectations of the YIG conference. The CCE staff may remove inappropriate bills from the dockets of their respective chambers regardless of committee rankings.
- B. When presenting their bills, patrons should uphold expectations for appropriate behavior. Disruptive behavior is subject to disciplinary action. Patrons should not use props of any kind while presenting their bills.
- C. Patrons may yield extra time from their introduction to their summation. Delegates speaking “pro” on those bills may also yield time to the patrons’ summation. Unused time from the patrons’ summation is yielded to the presiding officer (chair).
- D. Patrons may invoke Patron’s Rights during debate on their bill when a delegate has offered factually incorrect information about the text of their bill. Patron’s Rights allows the patrons ten seconds of uninterrupted speaking time to offer correct information. The patrons must wait until the speaker has concluded their remarks before exercising these rights.

II. Amendments to Bills

- A. Patrons of bills may submit minor amendments to their bills immediately prior to presenting their bill to their appointed committee. These amendments should be limited to simple corrections and should not change the substance or intent of the bill. Once the patrons have begun their presentation, they may not submit amendments to their bill for the duration of the conference.
- B. The title of a bill may not be amended. Delegates must make every effort to ensure that proposed amendments do not make a bill omnibus.
- C. Any amendments must be written on the appropriate form, be legible, and be germane.
- D. Amendments must be recognized by the chair before the final round of debate on the bill, i.e. before the chair has recognized the last “pro” speaker.
- E. The patrons of the resolution must declare any amendment “friendly” (if they agree with the proposed amendment) or “unfriendly” (if they disagree).

1. Friendly amendments may be passed without debate through voice acclamation.
 2. Unfriendly amendments are debated in the appropriate format. The amendment's sponsor acts as the patron of the amendment, and the patrons of the resolution have the right to be the first con speaker in the debate.
- F. In chambers, the chair may recognize a maximum of two (2) amendments to any bill.
- G. Amendments must be in one of three forms:
1. TO DELETE... You must be specific about what part of the bill you are deleting.
 2. TO INSERT... You must be give specific wording to be inserting and the specific location of where it is to be inserted.
 3. TO SUBSTITUTE... A combination of the above.
- H. If a bill is adopted in the first chamber and amended in the second chamber, it must return to the first chamber for consideration of the amendments. When the bill is returned to the first chamber, the patron should make one of two motions below. Both motions are debatable and require a simple majority for adoption. Rejecting the amendments of the other chamber removes the bill from the docket.
1. "I move that the amendments be adopted and the bill be made to conform to the Senate/House version."
 2. "I move that the amendments be rejected."

III. Debating Bills, Amendments, and other Motions:

- A. Delegates to the General Assembly may speak when recognized by the chair. Delegates' remarks must be relevant to the items on the agenda at any given time. Delegates from other components (Governor's Cabinet, Supreme Court) may only speak with permission of the CCE staff.
- B. Once recognized, delegates must identify themselves to the session with their name and school.
- C. Delegates recognized as speakers in debate have the right to do two of the following things with their speaker's time. Speakers must inform the chair of their intentions before continuing to:
1. Address the floor/session
 2. Ask the patrons of the bill a series of questions
 3. Yield the remainder of their time to another delegate in the session
 4. Make a motion. Motions should be made after one of the previous actions.
- D. Speaker's time: unless otherwise indicated by the chair, each speaker shall have one minute to address the floor. Speakers who have been yielded time by another delegate may not yield any further time. Unused speakers' time is yielded to the chair.

E. Should delegates wish to debate a debatable motion other than the main motion, debate is limited to two rounds; each speaker shall have 20 seconds of speaking time; the delegate who originally made the motion has the right to be the first 'pro' speaker.

F. Intent Speeches: delegates may submit intent speeches during debate on bills in chambers.

1. Intent speeches are limited to 2 minutes and delivered between the end of technical questions on the bill and the beginning of debate on the bill.
2. Intent speeches may only address the chamber; intent speakers must identify themselves and request permission to address the floor.
3. Intent speakers may not yield their time to another delegate, ask the patrons questions, or make a motion.
4. Intent speeches do not count as rounds of debate.
5. Delegates may only deliver one intent speech during the conference.

IV. Conducting Business

A. Two-thirds (67%) of the assigned delegates shall constitute a quorum of the General Assembly and committees. A quorum must be present for any session to conduct the business on its docket.

B. All delegates are expected to maintain decorum, i.e. appropriate behavior, during all sessions. Delegates behaving inappropriately are subject to disciplinary action by conference officers and the CCE staff. The Delegate Code of Conduct defines further expectations for appropriate delegate behavior.

C. The CCE staff and calendar committee shall prepare the dockets for committees and chambers. The House, Senate, and their committees may amend their dockets in the following ways:

1. Add bills passed by the other chamber
2. Postpone bills to a specific time. If a bill is postponed to a certain time, it automatically has the highest priority for consideration at that time.
3. Amendments to the docket should be done only with clear, compelling reasons. The motion to amend the docket is not debatable and requires a simple majority to pass.

V. Motions

A. These motions require a second. Motions shall be ranked as follows:

1. Adjourn
2. Recess
3. Previous Question
4. Amendment
5. Adopt a Bill (Main Motion)

B. A motion shall be in order when it outranks all other pending motions. For instance, if a motion to recognize an amendment is pending, moving the previous question shall be in order.

TENNESSEE YMCA CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TABLE OF MOTIONS

Motion	When Another has the Floor	Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote	Reconsider
Main Motion (Bill or resolution)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Only with permission from CCE staff
Adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Amend	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Appeal	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2/3	n/a
Postpone to a certain time	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	n/a
Previous Question (end debate)	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Recess	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Reconsider	No	Yes	Yes	No	2/3	No
Point of Personal Privilege	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Suspend the Rules	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	No
Withdraw Motions	No	No	No	No	Majority	n/a
Point of Information	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Point of Order/ Parliamentary Inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

BRIEF DEFINITIONS:

Adjourn: this action ends the session and is only in order with the permission of the CCE staff.

Appeal: a legislative body may appeal a decision of its presiding officer if 2/3 of its members think that the chair has made an incorrect ruling on a procedural matter.

Reconsider: motions to reconsider any motion are only in order with the permission of the CCE staff.

Point of Personal Privilege: this point should be used to address delegates' comfort or ability to participate in the conference session, i.e. climate control issues, PA volume, etc.

Suspension of the Rules: a successful motion to suspend the rules affects only the main motion at hand. Suspended rules are 'back' once voting/ranking procedures are complete.

Point of Information: these points are questions directed to the chair for factual information relevant to the debate at hand. The chair may redirect the question to a delegate who is likely to have an answer.

Point of Order: these points are questions directed to the chair asking for clarification of rules of procedure.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



HOUSE COMMITTEE 1



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Hank Stubblefield, Samuel Pittman, Hudson Sveadas
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

Act to Filter School Water

1 Be It Enacted Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government

2
3 Section 1:

4 About 100 schools in Tennessee have higher than safe lead amounts in their
5 water.

6 Too much lead in the drinking water could cause many problems such as a coma,
7 convulsions, and even death.

8 Lead does this by attacking the brain and nervous system of the child.

9 It can range from lower birth weight and slowed physical and mental
10 development, to impaired hearing, reduced attention span, and poor classroom
11 performance in younger children.

12 Harvard University found that around 45% of schools nationwide tested to have
13 more than recommended amounts of lead.

14 Lead- A soft, heavy metal, that is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. Used in most
15 plumbing. Is now considered a toxic material. (Pb)

16
17 Section 2:

18 This act will provide funding to help better filter the water at schools. This
19 funding is to help reduce the amount of lead in the plumbing systems at schools.
20 Additionally, this funding will also go to strengthening the filtering system so
21 problems with the water can be filtered out. This funding can help keep the
22 water at schools safe and filtered for all to use. If we were to replace all of the
23 lead plumbing pipes instead of the water fountains, the cost would be around
24 10,000,000 instead of 750,000. The average school student sleeps for 8-10
25 hours, which would make them stay awake for 14-16 hours each day. 5 days a
26 week you will be at school for 7-8 hours a day. In all that time the only place you
27 can get water is at a school water fountain.

28
29 Section 3:

30 To install 5 water fountains at 100 schools would cost approximately 750,000
31 dollars. This could come from the government and taxes for a sufficient amount
32 of funding. Water fountains should first be installed in elementary schools, as
33 lead has more of an effect on younger children.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Owen McKenna
School: Baylor School**

**AN ACT TO STOP ILLEGAL FINANCING BY ACQUIRING BENEFICIAL
OWNERSHIP INFORMATION WHEN COMPANIES ARE INCORPORATED
AND EVERY YEAR, ALONG WITH THEIR BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL
AND DISTRIBUTING IT TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES**

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

- a. Beneficial Ownership Information: information on who has voting rights or can receive dividends of any kind or has stock in the entity in question.
- b. Shell Company: an incorporated company that possesses no significant assets and does not perform any significant operations.
- c. Entity: a person or organization possessing separate and distinct legal rights, such as an individual, partnership, or corporation. An entity can, among other things, own property, engage in business, enter into contracts, pay taxes, sue and be sued.
- d. Assests: tangible and generally illiquid property used by a business to generate profit, such as equipment, buildings, cash, stock, or property.

Section 2: This act requires:

- a. An organized system of records to hold (and to distribute to tax authorities) beneficial ownership information.
- b. A database of entities not allowed to create companies.
- c. An implementation is also needed to force entities being incorporated to disclose beneficial ownership information.
- d. All entities also will have to disclose information on any other entity that owns more than 5 percent of the stock of the company.

Section 3: Violators of this act will be: barred from creating any (business, non-living) entity. If the entity has already been incorporated, they will not be allowed to renew their business license.

Section 4: When enacted, this bill will cost the state \$500,000.

Section 5: This law will take effect 12 months after it is passed.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Russell Garges, Dane Gore, Nathan Hickham, Landon Way
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

Act To Legalize The Distribution and Purchase of Marijuana

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Definitions-

PTSD- a condition of persistent mental and emotional stress occurring as a result of injury or severe psychological shock.

Anxiety-a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome

Opioids-a compound resembling opium in addictive properties or physiological effects.

Marijuana-cannabis, especially as smoked or consumed as a psychoactive (mind-altering) drug

Epilepsy-a neurological disorder marked by sudden recurrent episodes of sensory disturbance, loss of consciousness, or convulsions, associated with abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

Parkinson's Disease -is a brain disorder that leads to shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with walking, balance, and coordination.

Cigarettes-a thin cylinder of finely cut tobacco rolled in paper for smoking

E-cigarettes: a cigarette-shaped device containing a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled, used to simulate the experience of smoking tobacco.

THC- a crystalline compound that is the main active ingredient of cannabis.

Section 1: Benefits of use

The substance has the capability of slowing tumor growth, killing cancer cells, controlling nausea and vomiting from cancer, and reducing anxiety. People are stressed now more than ever so it would be beneficial to make it more accessible.

Prescription benefits -

Helps when prescribed to patients with anxiety, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, PTSD, and several more life-threatening ailments.

The Alternates -

It has proven to be much better (short and long term) compared to cigarettes, E-cigarettes, and alcohol. Alcohol can destroy your liver, cause cancer, and lead people to become overweight. E-cigarettes are not only terrible for your lungs but they have proven to be terrible for your heart. Cigarettes can lead to terrible lung cancers and kill thousands of people a year. Also, it is a much better alternative for people who see relief from the extremely dangerous opioids that are circling through the country.

Section 2: Purchase

Before stores can sell the product they must be authorized by state officials and have customers follow these guidelines. You must have an ID(driver's license, military) at purchase to show that you are 21 years of age. You will register for purchase into a system similar to gun registration. The limit per weekly purchase would be an ounce. The maximum amount of THC per gram would be 3 grams. The maximum amount of marijuana allowed to be purchased in one week would be one ounce. Along with state sales tax, there would also be a 9.85% tax on the purchase of marijuana. They will receive the product in a container with a tab on it, and a receipt that proves the legal purchase. If they don't have these when the product is found, they can be arrested.

Marijuana would also be available for people under a prescription for anyone over the age of 16 in a 1-ounce maximum weekly prescription.

Section 3: Regulations

Law Enforcement-

Citizens would not be allowed to purchase from non-authorized sellers and they cannot sell their own product. The sentence for this would be between six months to 15 years. Also driving on marijuana would be a DUI. Also, attempts to possess over the legal limit would result in two to six months in jail. Officers will check for signs of a high and will check the marijuana to see if it is a legal strand when pulling over culprits and if they don't check out, they will be asked to perform a drug test.

Government Positions-

This would put more funding towards the police department for assignments regarding marijuana, and the training to handle situations in relation to the substance. Also, it would create new jobs for officials that would authorize stores before they can sell the product.

Section 4: Fiscal Line

The addition of this law will cost \$8,945,000 in the first year and be funded through the Department of Safety and Homeland Security budget.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Chloe Baker, Judi Kaye Justice, Jackson Rea
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Require a Minimum Age on Energy Drinks

1 Whereas energy drinks cause many health issues especially at a young age due
2 to the high amounts of additives such as caffeine, taurine, guarana, ginseng, L-
3 carnitine and yohimbine therefore,

4
5 Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

6
7 Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

8 a) Energy drinks - any of various types of beverage that are considered a source
9 of energy, especially a soft drink containing a high percentage of sugar and/or
10 caffeine.

11 b) Caffeine - a crystalline compound that is found especially in tea and coffee
12 plants and is a stimulant of the central nervous system.

13
14 Section 2: This Act requires that the minimum age to purchase energy drinks is
15 18.

16
17 Section 3: The purpose of this Act is to help restrict the health effects energy
18 drinks have on your body such as dependence, dehydration, insomnia, heart
19 palpitations and/or an increased heart rate. In children the side effects can
20 become even more severe and could even cause seizures, mania, stroke and
21 death in rare situations.

22
23 Section 4: The first offense penalty for violating this law is a \$100 fine.

24
25 Section 5: The government will not have to fund this act.

26
27 Section 6: All laws of parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

28
29 Section 7: This act shall take effect June 25th 2021 the public welfare requiring
30 it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Keira Bohman, Addison Causey, Callaway Wheeler
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

**AN ACT TO REQUIRE A DRIVER'S TEST TO BE COMPLETED EVERY 4
YEARS FOR DRIVERS 65+**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

older/elder driver: a driver the age of 65 or older

fatal/fatalities: causing death

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA): agency of the
U.S. government dealing with traffic safety

Driver's license: document giving permission for a person to drive a vehicle

Section 2: This act requires drivers 65+ years of age to retake their drivers test
at a DMV in order to renew their driver's license.

Section 3: Drivers 65+ must renew their driver's license every 4 years. Each
license will be issued for a time period of 4 years and then it will expire, so the
operator must obtain another driving test in order to keep driving

Section 4: Two states, Illinois and New Hampshire have a similar requirement in
place for elderly drivers. Illinois is now ranked one of the top 5 safest driving
states.

Section 5: Elderly drivers who are retaking their test will pay the normal fee.

Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 7: This act will take effect immediately once it is enacted.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Levi Painter, Hudson Davis, Eli Dillion, Colin Tomescu
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Fund Physical and Drug Abuse Organizations for Children

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 2: Under this act, physical and drug abuse rehab and therapy
4 organizations for children shall receive funding from Tennessee Health Human
5 Services.

6
7 Section 3: Funding will go to government owned and private organizations that
8 produce the most effective options for treatment of children affected by abuse.

9
10 Section 4: This act will also go towards campaigns focused on pushing kids to
11 find help when suffering from abuse and make it more accessible to children
12 from low income families.

13
14 Section 5: The act will also use the funding to help open up new therapy and
15 rehab facilities. They will be opened in areas of high population density such as
16 Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Knoxville.

17
18 Section 6: The act will also work with adoption centers and foster organizations
19 to find places for children who have suffered abuse from their current families to
20 stay and remain in an abuse free environment.

21
22 Section 7: This act will allow therapists to be on hand at hospitals. This will be
23 made due to the fact in 2019 93% of patients were outpatients. This means for
24 the 91% of people who are lower income they will have mental support as well
25 as physical.

26
27 Section 8: This act will request a total of two million dollars to be used for the
28 opening of new facilities, extra training for therapists,

29
30 Section 9: All laws or parts of laws in funding for physical and drug abuse
31 organizations for children with this are hereby repealed.

32
33 Section 10: This act shall take effect February 1, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Anabelle Green, Mamie Pewitt, Libby Rothfuss
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Increase Age of Legal Guardianship

Section 1- Terms defined:

- A. Guardianship- The position of being legally responsible for the care of someone who is unable to manage their own affairs.
- B. Legal- of or relating to law; connected with the law or its administration: the legal profession. appointed, established, or authorized by law; deriving authority from law.
- C. Act- a decision or determination of a sovereign, a legislative council, or a court of justice.
- D. Increase- an instance of growing or making something greater
- E. Age- The length of a time a person has lived or a thing has existed

Be it enacted by the Tennessee Youth And Government this bill will increase the age of those with legal guardianship of others. The law currently states, "The guardian must be 18 years of age or older." This age must be changed to one with more common responsibility. 18-20 years of age is still too young because financial situations can often be far too strenuous for young adults. The average young adult makes \$1,475 a month spending \$7,000. A child can cost approximately \$1,081 a month in total pay an approximate \$8,081 a month which most will not be capable of paying at all. Further more, adoption costs around \$12,000 and young adults can have a student debt of \$30,062.

Section 2- Not only are young adults in financial situations that are not qualified for guardianship, but 21- 22 years of age is a legal drinking age when young adults first start drinking alcoholic drinks they are often irresponsible. Though after the first 2 years many form responsible drinking. Lastly, age differences or lack thereof can cause serious issues. If the legal guardianship age is 18 and children are eligible to be adopted when 18 or younger, therefore an 18 year old can adopt another someone of the same age. This is why the legal age of guardianship must be amended from 18 years of age to 23 years of age.

Section 3- It will not cost the state anything.

Section 4- All laws in conflict with this will be repealed

Section 5- This act shall take effect on the 10th of October, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Holden Williams, Bailey Nolen
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An act to eliminate workplace discrimination by requiring resumes to be anonymous as part of the job application process in Tennessee

1 Section 1: Terms in this act, unless the context requires otherwise, shall be
2 defined as follows:

3 Workplace: A place where people work, such as an office or factory.

4 Discrimination: treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of
5 or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that
6 person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit

7 Anonymous: without any name acknowledged, as that of author, contributor, or
8 the like

9 Resume: a document created and used by a person to present their background,
10 skills, and accomplishments.

11 Workplace discrimination: Fail or refuse to hire or discharge any person or
12 otherwise to discriminate against an individual with respect to compensation,
13 terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual's race,
14 creed, color, religion, sex, age or national origin

15
16 Section 2: This act will make it mandatory for companies in Tennessee to require
17 anonymous resumes from job candidates, so the workplaces will be hiring based
18 on merit only, and not on race, ethnicity, gender or religion.

19
20 Section 3: This act will require companies to make it essential for resumes to be
21 submitted in anonymous form. These resumes will have to include, but not
22 limited to the following: A standard resume, a criminal record, contact
23 information, school records, and a job record.

24
25 Section 4: The companies and workplaces may reject any resume that looks fake
26 or illegally fabricated. This will insure the safety of the people already working at
27 the workplace, and the job of the candidate.

28
29 Section 5: While looking over the resumes, the employer should mark each
30 resume a number, the one the employer would like to hire would be contacted in
31 some way or form to say they have been hired. After this has taken place the
32 employer and the candidate will arrange a face-to-face meeting where the
33 employer will collect the candidates birth certificate, drivers license, employment
34 certificate, and everything else the company will need to finish the hiring
35 process. After this is done the employer will tell the candidate when to start
36 working. Note that the candidate has already been hired prior to the face-to-face
37 meeting, to ensure fair grounds for all minorities and majorities.

Section 6: It is important to note that applicants are required to send in anonymous resumes. This completely anonymous process will ensure that the people who attain the job will not be based on gender, race, ethnicity, or religion.

Section 7: All companies, ranging from small businesses to corporations, will be required to accept the anonymous resumes sent into the workplaces. No matter where the business is based, any franchise or extension within Tennessee will be eligible for fines. The employers will have to send a message to all applicants so they know that they have been rejected or hired. If more than three months go by without any hearing from the company, they are eligible for a fine.

Section 8: The fines for companies will be dependent on three things: how many people work at the company, the average yearly income for that company, and the amount of offenses that company has committed. The companies will be fined in this way: Ten or less employees \$400 dollars first offense, One-hundred or less \$750 first offense, Five-hundred or less \$1000, 1000 or less \$1500, 10,000 or less \$2,000, 100,000 or less \$5,000, 500,000 or less \$10,000, 999,999 or less \$15,000, and 1,000,000 or more \$20,000. Note that all fines can double for each offense. Note that prices may vary depending on how this offense happened whether it was an accident or otherwise. Also note that these are looking at companies with average yearly income.

Section 9: The Tennessee law (Chapter 21, Human Rights, part 4, page 12,4-21-401) already states that an employer is discriminatory if he "Fail(s) or refuse(s) to hire or discharge any person or otherwise to discriminate against an individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, creed, color, religion, sex, age or national origin". And also that "Any employee terminated in violation of this section may bring a civil action against the employee's employer."The only problem is there is little to no evidence available to prove that the failure to hire or hiring of a person was discriminatory. Our bill will help with this problem by making hiring based on anything but merit nearly impossible.

Section 10: This act will not work against, nor will it change the Tennessee Human Rights act, but instead work with it to help minorities find a job and support their families.

Section 11: This act shall take effect on July 4th, 2021.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Brilyn Bandel, Ryan Spencer, Cora Bursi, Bailey Keene
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF NICOTINE/TOBACCO INHALANTS IN A
MOTORIZED VEHICLE CONTAINING A MINOR**

BE ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

Prohibit: formally forbid

Inhalants: a medicinal preparation for inhaling.

Minor: a person under the age of full legal responsibility

Motorized: furnished with a motor

Vehicle: any means in or by which someone travels or something is carried or conveyed;
a means of conveyance or transport

Nicotine: a poisonous alkaloid

Tobacco: medicinal preparation for inhaling one of the nicotine-rich leaves of an
American plant, which are cured by a process of drying and fermentation for smoking or
chewing.

Offense: a breach of a law or rule; an illegal act.

Section 2: Smoking in a vehicle with a minor is prohibited. Second-hand smoking and
vaping can have many harmful effects on minors. Second-hand smoke increases the
chance of asthma attacks and makes them more severe in children. Second-hand
smoking also increases the risk of strokes.

Section 3: The standards for this course will be set by the Tennessee Police
Departments. If a police officer sees someone smoking in a vehicle with someone in the
backseat of a car or with a car seat, they will be pulled over.

Section 4: This addition of this course will not require any money from the government
of Tennessee. All the extra money proceeds will go to lung cancer fundraisers.

Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 6: This act shall take place on January 1st, 2022.

Section 7: Punishments will be defined as follows:

1st offense: Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$50.

2nd offense: Failure to comply for a second time will result in a fine of \$300.

3rd offense: Failure to comply for the third time will result in 48 hours of jail time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



HOUSE COMMITTEE 2



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Brodi Headrick, Carlos Baleeiro
School: Baylor School**

AN ACT TO REQUIRE HALF OF TREES CUT DOWN TO BE REPLANTED BY COMPANIES

- 1 Section 1: Terms used in this act will be defined as follows:
- 2 A. Remove - to take away
- 3 B. Company - a commercial business
- 4 C. Invest - expend money with the expectation of achieving a profit or by using
- 5 it to develop a commercial venture
- 6 D. Violate - break or fail to comply with
- 7 E. Conflict - a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one
- 8 F. Supply - make (something needed or wanted) available to someone; provide
- 9 G. Replant - plant again, especially when transferring in to a larger pot or new site
- 10 H. Repeal - revoke or annul

11
12 Section 2: This act requires trees, tree sprouts, spades, shovels, dirt, gallons of
13 water, and companies' cooperation.
14 Companies that cut down trees in Tennessee will have to plant back half of the
15 trees they cut down.
16 They will have to plant back the same type of trees that they cut down unless it
17 is unavailable then they will replant a tree that is similar to that species.
18 The Tennessee Environmental Council will provide the trees to plant, and the
19 Tennessee forestry division will provide the materials.
20 People are not required to replant on private property.
21 Companies will round up to the next number if the number they cut down is odd.
22 (i e: They cut down 75 trees, they will have to replant 38 trees)

23
24 Section 3: Companies that violate this act will be asked to step away from the
25 project and have a new company continue with the project, and the previous
26 company will lose the money they invested in it.

27
28 Section 4: The state will buy all of the supplies to replant the trees. It costs \$750
29 to cut down a tree. For one tree to be replanted it costs \$52. Companies will
30 need multiple sets of these materials. If they each need 10,000 sets of the
31 materials then it will cost the state roughly \$520,750 dollars. Companies who
32 chose to supply their own supplies are allowed to do so. The Tennessee
33 environmental council will supply the trees for \$2.49 a tree.

34
35 Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

36
37 Section 6: This law will take effect on March 22nd 2021; the end of winter. If
38 parts of Tennessee are still cold by then, then they are allowed to enact the bill
39 as soon as the average weekly temperature is 62 degrees F or above.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Emma Crane, Daniel Alley, Rhianna Bryant, Kinsley Killingsworth
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL BUSES TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF 2
SEAT BELTS PER BENCH**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

School buses - vehicles that transport children or students to school and back to their homes.

Seat belt - a piece of material, sometimes leather, that keeps you hooked into your seat and safe while driving down the road.

Students - children or young adults who go to a school in the state.

School - a place where children and/or adolescents are educated.

Maximum - largest possible amount.

Bench - (refers to in this situation) seat on a bus, generally holding 2 people.

Unusable - something that is not able to be used.

Deadline - last date to turn something in or to finish something.

Tennessee Department of Education - works with the different school boards to give out teaching licenses in a way that works with rules in existence.

Student welfare - students being safe, well, and okay.

Tennessee Department of Transportation - area of Tennessee's Government that controls vehicle, railroad, aviation, and water transportation.

General Assembly of the State of Tennessee - Tennessee's state legislature, including the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Comply - agreeing to something/doing what someone says to do/abiding by the rules.

Section 2: All school bus companies will be required for their buses to have seat belts installed (two per bench).

Section 3: This will cost a maximum of \$104.5 million (minimum of \$66.5 million) and will be funded by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. The cost includes installation fees.

Section 4: School buses in conflict with this act will be determined as unusable until updated.

Section 5: School bus companies that do not comply with this act will receive a \$4,500 fine every month they refuse to update their buses after July 31, 2021.

Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

38
39 Section 7: This act shall take effect June 1, 2021, student welfare requiring it.
40
41 Section 8: Deadline to update school buses before being fined will be July 31,
42 2021.
43
44 Section 9: The fines/act will be enforced by the Tennessee Department of
45 Education and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.
46
47 Section 10: Any student who refuses to wear their seat belt will be given
48 warnings. If they continue to refuse to not wear their seat belt, they can be
49 suspended from riding their school bus. Punishments will continue to become
50 more severe the longer the student refuses to comply. This could lead to school
51 bus expulsion.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Hannah Densman, Mia Greco
School: Heritage Middle School**

An Act to Give Teachers Bonuses

Be it Enacted By The Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:

a) State Testing: A State wide regulated test that is given to students at schools to ensure students are learning appropriate knowledge in line with the curriculum.

b) Test Score: The percentage of correctly answered questions by a student.

Section 2: All teachers in the state of Tennessee will receive these bonuses; These Bonuses shall be issued by the Tennessee Department of Education .

Section 3: Every school in the state will have the schools overall average state Testing Score multiplied by 75%. The teachers at these schools will receive that number in a check. These check should be issued on the first day of the month of December each school year. This will be the multiple from the previous school years test scores.

Section 4: If a teacher who taught at the school at the time the test was taken by the students in the class, the teacher will still receive the check from the previous school year test scores.

Section 5: If a teacher takes a leave of absence so long that they are no longer the majority teacher of their classes then that teacher will only receive 15% of their original bonus.

Section 6: Past scores indicate that the predicted yearly cost will be about 20,000,000 US dollars that will be funded through the Tennessee Department of Education.

Section 7: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 8: This Act shall take effect July 1st, 2023, to provide time to collect any additional funds needed.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Bailee Waye, Mia Sabatini
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

**An Act to Ban the use of Styrofoam in Public Schools in TN and replace
them with more environmentally friendly alternatives**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section I: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

- a) Polystyrene- A synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymer that is used in the production of Styrofoam products
- b) Bagasse- A dry pulp substance acquired by extracting the juice from sugarcane; can also be a substitute for Styrofoam
- c) Styrene- A synthetic chemical that is used to make plastics, rubbers, and resins
- d) Styrofoam- Expanded polystyrene
- e) Landfill- A location where waste material is disposed of by burning and covering in soil
- f) Carcinogen- A substance that is capable of causing cancer
- g) PLA lined paper: A material made of poly-lactic acid and cornstarch; it is used to make containers for food products
- h) Molded Fiber: A material made of recycled paper or other natural fibers; it is used to make containers for food products

Section II: All public schools in Tennessee will be required to switch from using their styrofoam products to using much more environmentally friendly alternatives such as Bagasse, PLA lined paper, Molded fiber, Aluminum, etc...

Section III: This act will be enforced by the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Department of Education

Section IV: This act will cost \$667,202,400 and will be funded through the Tennessee Department of Education budget. Funds used previously to purchase styrofoam trays may also be used to cover the expenses of this act

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in this conflict are hereby repealed

Section VI: This act will take effect on August 8, 2021



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Kate Meadows, Sofia Roy
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Encourage the Development of Community Gardens

Whereas, the lack of access to fresh vegetables in poor communities contributes to health problems and a community garden would help improve poor citizens health and well-being, therefore

Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

Community- group of people living in the same place

Garden- a fertile and delightful spot or region

Section 2: This Act shall create incentives to encourage the development of community gardens. This Act will create a fund and method for cities and towns to apply for grants to obtain funds to use in development of community gardens.

Section 3: The purpose of this Act is to fund community gardens in Tennessee. The community gardens will provide food for lower income families that can't afford fresh produce.

Section 4: If you apply and receive the grant but do not start the construction process within 1 year they will have to pay back all the money as well as an additional \$2000 fine.

Section 5: It will cost about \$20,000-30,000 per garden. These grants will be paid for by the Tennessee budget surplus, up to \$1,000,000.

Section 6: All laws of parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

Section 7: This act shall take effect June 14, 2021 the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Laney Rummo, Ella Peacock
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

**An Act to Make HGH steroids illegal to Public Purchase in the state of
Tennessee.**

1 HGH steroids are medically useful for about half of the people who use them but
2 the other half are abusing them. If you read between the lines of it being
3 "medically useful" it also means that they are available to athletes all over the
4 state.

5
6 This bill will prevent athletes from having to choose if they are going to make the
7 wrong decision in using steroids. The reason we state this is because if they
8 choose to use steroids it can result in them being kicked teams and long term
9 health issues. This solves the risk of athletes facing future problems. This
10 resolution does not intervene with cost concerns so there is no need for any
11 money to be involved.

12
13 Now you may think these steroids we're never legal to sell to high schoolers but
14 they are still legal for adults to buy which also means that it can lead to
15 teenagers getting a hold of the steroids.

16
17 This problem will be addressed January 1, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Petal Chivers, Cheyenne Proctor-Bjorgo
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Switch from Plastic to Paper Bags in All Stores

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature:

SECTION 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

Grocery Stores - A store that sells food and household products

Plastic Bag - A non-renewable plastic bag

Biodegradable - Capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms

SECTION 2: All grocery stores will be required to transition from plastic, non-renewable bags to paper, renewable bags in all locations by May 8, 2021.

Grocery stores in Tennessee will start using paper bags instead of plastic bags at checkout. Department commerce and insurance, all businesses found as non-compliant with regulations shall be fined 500\$ per infraction.

SECTION 3:

It takes at least 500 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill, while it only takes 6-8 weeks for the paper to decompose. Reducing the amount of space needed within a landfill through the use of paper bags will have a positive impact on our communities and environment. Reducing the size and number of landfills throughout Tennessee will also increase available land for animal habitats and preserve the beauty of our great state.

A paper bag costs 4 or 5 cents per bag to produce. There are plastic bags that are compostable, but the cost rises to between 8 to 10 cents. Switching from plastic to paper would save businesses about 5 cents per bag.

SECTION 4:

This act will benefit future generations of Tennesseans by reducing the amount of plastics and pollution within the state. Plastic bags take at least 500 years to decompose versus paper bags which are biodegradable.

Plastic bags are made from burning fossil fuels which is a large air polluter. Long-term health effects from air pollution can include brain damage, lung cancer, heart disease, and many more. Through the use of paper bags instead of plastic bags, Tennessee will see a drastic decrease in our negative environmental impact.

SECTION 5: This act will go into effect on May 8, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Ben Allen, Teddy Crighton, Jack Warwick
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act To Help Inform the Citizen of Upcoming Construction Projects

Section 1-

Definitions: Flyer (a sheet of paper with information consisting of the cost of the project, where the project is, what will be shut down while the project is built, and when the project start and end)

Be it enacted by the Tennessee Youth in Government

The company behind any construction project will give flyers out to the workers which they will hang up. This bill will help the community be more informed about upcoming construction projects for any buildings, roads, etc that will shut down parts of a city and what to expect along with the project. The flyers will be hung up around the area mostly by buildings and houses that will see, hear, or be around the construction. In some cases, the flyers will be hung outside a store to alert them that they may need to determine a new entrance area because the old one will be blocked or made more inconvenient by the construction.

Section 2- The flyers wouldn't be posted around the entire city but rather places close to the area of construction. The only exceptions for this would be for roads or buildings that block roads. If that is the case there would be flyers in a 1000 area radius unless the company believes that certain areas must be informed, if that is the case then flyers will also be put in that area. This would be posted 2 months in advance of the project.

Section 3- The total cost for flyers would start around \$130 but could go up to \$300 depending on how many flyers are needed. The company would also pay the workers an extra 3-10 dollars per flyer. There will be 25 flyers per hundred miles. The construction company will pay for these expenses.

Section 4- All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 5- The bill will be effective May 1, 2022

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



HOUSE COMMITTEE 3



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Evan Eads, Annette Teising, Isabelle Teising
School: Heritage Middle School**

**An Act That Prevents Prohibited Movements Relating To Wildlife
Management**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:

- a) Executive Director: Senior operating officer or manager of an organization or corporation.
- b) Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is an independent state agency of the state of Tennessee with the mission of managing the state's fish, wildlife, their habitats, as well as responsibility for all wildlife-related law enforcement activities.

Section 2: This act will prevent prohibited movements relating to wildlife management due to the hunting and killing being enacted upon Tennessee's wildlife animals illegally in wild habitats or establishments including public parks. Through prohibiting these forbidden movements, we can help to preserve the beauty of natural habitats to avoid the possible extinction of several animal species, allowing people to enjoy nature and feel life throughout the state. Regardless of the many acts that have been placed to restrict these killings, they will not cease to happen unless further necessary action is taken.

Section 3: Under this act of wildlife protection management, the penalty for breaking these laws shall be as listed, a fine of \$100, and a restriction that prevents the person charged from stepping in the area where the slaughter was committed.

Section 4: The act will require parks to establish areas in which people are prohibited from hunting. To further enact on this, we would like to place signs in locations near roadways or areas where there are an especially high amount of trees, and animal habitats to ensure the precautionary measures being taken to this matter at hand we have come to face in Tennessee.

Section 5: The act that we have proposed will not be very costly depending on how many signs are constructed overall. Our goal for this bill is to be able to place signs in areas where animal habitation is especially abundant. It will cost somewhere around \$50 or less for each sign placed. For instance, if we were to place a few signs in areas of animal habitation, a rough estimation of the budget would be around \$10,000 at max. If we were to create and place 200 of these

signs, also the amount needed could be less than even that which was stated leaving the total below \$9,000.

Section 6: If enacted, this bill would require a minimum amount of financial cost to the state of Tennessee; however it does not require the hiring of anyone due to the fact that the signs themselves will be the things that keep them in check. If the deaths continue past the enactment of the bill, if possible, we can request funds in the future to be able to install small cameras.

Section 7: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 8: This law shall take effect January 1, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Ashlynn Ivey, Ava Cooper, Reason Duffy
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An act to put up mesh barriers on storm drains

1 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA youth legislature,

2
3 Section 1: terms in this act will be defined as follows

4 Storm drains - A runoff to the Tennessee River.

5 Mesh barriers - A barrier using the smallest size of metal mesh.

6 Microplastics - Tiny pieces of various types of plastic less than 5 millimeters long.

7 Metric tons - one metric ton equals 2204.62 pounds.

8
9 Section 2: This act will authorize the purchase and installation of mesh barriers
10 in the front of storm drains that lead to Tennessee waterways. The goal of these
11 mesh barriers is to greatly reduce the number of microplastics and pollution in
12 the TN river. This act will place mesh barriers on storm drains in order to filter
13 out microplastic and keep them from entering Tennessee waterways.

14
15 Section 3: The TN river is filled with around 32 million microplastics. There are
16 an estimated 82 storm drains that lead to the TN river. The amount of
17 microplastics added into the Tennessee river each year is an estimated 1.15 to
18 2.41 million metric tons of plastic waste into the ocean and that shows what the
19 TN river is like after one year. and the majority of all microplastics entering this
20 waterway originate from the storm drains.

21
22 Section 4: This act will install the smallest mesh size, which has a -6 mesh
23 powder, will capture all particles that measure less than 0.13 inches. It will cost
24 roughly \$1,230 to cover all 82 storm drains leading to the Tennessee River,
25 approximately \$15 per net. It will cost approximately \$120 to install per drain,
26 bringing the installation cost to \$9,840. Covering all storm drains leading to the
27 Tennessee River, greatly reducing the number of microplastics in Tennessee
28 waterways will cost taxpayers a total of \$11,845. All future maintenance costs
29 will be covered by the annual budget of the State Parks Department.

30
31 Section 5: This act will go into effect on July 30, 2021, the public welfare
32 requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Jake Stanley, Kathleen Harrell, Logan Haynie
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

**An Act to Implement a Plastic Bag Tax to Encourage the
Use of Reusable Bags**

Whereas, too many plastic bags are used in Tennessee, and plastic bags are difficult and expensive to recycle and most bags end up on landfill sites where they take 500 years to photo-degrade. Also plastic bags break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them, harming humans, and Tennessee would benefit from less use of plastic bags, therefore

Be enacted by the Tennessee Youth in Government .

Section 1- Definitions Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

A-Grocery- a grocer's store or business

B- Plastic- a synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, PVC, nylon, etc., that can be molded into shape while soft and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form

Section 2- Customers will be charged 5 cents per bag for each bag they use at a grocery store or other retail store.

Section 3- Any bag will be taxed at 5 cents per bag. Everybody should be able to pay these taxes for plastic bags. If a consumer doesn't want to pay for a bag they can bring their own reusable bag or they may carry their item purchased without a bag.

Section 4- This can be implemented without a cost for the state, but it can in fact generate money for the state government through the collection of plastic bag taxes.

Section 5- All laws and parts of laws in conflict are hereby repealed.

Section 6- This act will take place May 10, 2021 in the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Robert Morency, Peyton Rudiger
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Create a Four Day School Week

1 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature,

2
3 Section 1: The terms, unless the context requires otherwise, shall be defined as
4 follows:

5 Public - Available for everybody

6 Increase - Add more of something

7
8 Section 2: All public school systems will move to a four day school week,
9 instead of the traditional five day school week used by all school systems across
10 the state. All public school systems will utilize a Monday through Thursday model
11 for grades 1-12 and extend the traditional 7.5 hour school day to 9.5 hours.
12 While school districts are allowed to structure the new 9.5 hour school day to
13 their preference, the Tennessee Department of Education will recommend that
14 districts simply start the school day one hour earlier and extend the school day
15 one hour.

16
17 Section 3: This act will be beneficial to all school systems because it will
18 decrease school energy consumption, allowing for teacher pay to be increased.
19 Increased teacher pay paired with an additional day to prepare activities and
20 materials for students in the classroom will lead to a better education for
21 students in the classroom.

22
23 Section 4: This act will help schools save money due to a drastic decrease in
24 energy consumption.

25 This act allows for school districts to save additional funds from the State
26 Department of Education as well. For example, Williamson County Schools
27 alone gets \$395.9 million dollars from the state. By reducing the weekly school
28 days to 4, the state could save large sums of money. The fund savings in
29 Williamson County alone would be almost 8 million dollars a year.

30
31 Section 5: This act shall take effect at the start of the 2021-2022 School Year,
32 the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Trevor Curtis, Vance Lewis
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

An Act to Delay School Times to 8:30 AM

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:

4 a) School Administrator: A School Administrator is the "Head Teacher". They are
5 over all ranks of teaching. "School Administrator" is just a title for being over
6 teaching in a school.

7 b) Tennessee Department of Education: It is the state of Tennessee's
8 department that goes over all large acts related to school.

9 c) Sleep Deprivation: A state at which you are not getting
10 enough sleep. You are not able to get the adequate rest that you
11 need to function properly, and to the best of your ability.

12
13 Section 2) This act will require all public middle and high schools in Tennessee to
14 be required to start at 8:30 AM. This will allow students to get the proper
15 amount of sleep that is needed to prevent sleep deprivation and to pay attention
16 and take in knowledge. Some schools like SMMHS will have to have a leveled bus
17 time because the bus cannot hold elementary, middle, and highschool students.

18
19 Section 3) To receive state funding, all Tennessee schools will abide by these
20 guidelines.

21
22 Section 4) These new start times will be enforced by the Tennessee Department
23 of Education and all school administration.

24
25 Section 5) This act has no need for any funding, due just to the slight change in
26 times.

27
28 Section 6) This act shall take effect next school year, August 9, 2021



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Eliana Butler, Meredith Brimmage, Addison Adair
School: Legacy Middle School**

An Act to Outlaw Capital Punishment in the State of Tennessee

1 "BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT"

2
3 Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as followed:

4 Capital punishment: the legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for
5 a crime

6 Death row: a prison area housing inmates sentenced to death

7 Parole: the release of a prisoner temporarily (for a special purpose) or
8 permanently before the completion of a sentence, on the promise of good
9 behavior.

10
11 Section 2: Our proposal is, that we dissolve the death penalty in the state of
12 Tennessee. This outdated and horrendous strategy reflects poorly on our state as
13 a whole.

14 a) The death penalty will no longer be an option to a sentence.

15 b) People who are currently on death row will now be sent to retrial.

16 c) This will now meet the standard of a life in prison without parole.

17
18 The standards for this proposal will be set by the Tennessee Department of
19 Correction.

20
21 This will not have a large impact on monetary expenses. Only 13 people have
22 been executed from 1976 to 2020 in Tennessee. People shouldn't have their lives
23 taken away from them even if they have committed a crime. Prison can be
24 constructive in helping turn one's life around in the right direction. People have
25 new motivation to do the right thing and are given a second chance instead of
26 just proceeding with death.

27
28 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

29
30 This shall take to effect immediately, on March 26, 2021. The Public welfare
31 requires it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: George Simpson, Ananya Chakraborty
School: Baylor School**

**AN ACT TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO COMPANIES AND EMPLOYEES WHEN
THEY BUY AN FDA APPROVED VACCINATION FOR COVID-19**

Section 1: The terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

A. Tax breaks: The government gives a reduction in taxes

B. FDA: Food and Drug Administration

C. Vaccination: A substance that helps protect against diseases

D. Companies: A business that has a business license

Section 2: This act requires the government of the state of Tennessee to provide 1% tax break to companies that provide their employees with COVID 19 vaccinations. A vaccine must be readily available in the USA and affordable at most \$28.35 based on the flu vaccination.

Section 3: Violators of this act will lose the one percent tax break and be required to pay back the 1% tax break received.

Section 4: When enacted, this bill will cost the state \$250,000,000.

Section 5: All laws or parts of law in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6: This law will take effect once a COVID19 vaccine has been approved by the FDA for use in the general population.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Aarya Patel, Annabelle Goss, Alex Huskey
School: East Hamilton Middle**

An act to require high school students to take a life-skill class in order to graduate

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:

- a) credentials- a qualification typically used to indicate that someone is suitable for something
- b) credit- something awarded upon completing and passing a required school program
- c) disregard- pay no attention to; ignore
- d) etiquette- the customary code of polite behavior in society and the proper conduct for everyday life
- e) semester- half of the school year; two quarters of the school year
- f) student population- the number of students at a place (in this case a school)

Section 2: All high school students will need to pass a life-skill class in order to graduate. This will allow students to gain experience before moving out on their own, taking care of themselves, and becoming responsible citizens.

Section 3: This will be a required class to graduate with a Tennessee diploma.

Section 4: Students will need to take at least one semester of the life-skill class in order to earn a credit. If failed, the class must be retaken either in summer school or during another semester/school year.

Section 5: In order to pass the class, students must have an average grade of at least 70 or higher.

Section 6: The school will receive a budget of \$2000-\$5000 to fund the class (added to the yearly school budget). The amount of money given to the school will depend on the student population.

Section 7: Schools that disregard to add a life-skill class will receive two warnings and if they refuse to add the class then they will have \$500 cut out from their yearly budget. This will be enforced by the Tennessee Department of Education.

Section 8: Teachers will be required to earn credentials in life skill preparation classes in order to teach this class.

38
39 Section 9: Teachers will be paid an average salary of \$45,000 per year. They will
40 have opportunities to make more money once they have more experience.
41
42 Section 10: The class will teach the following skills: housekeeping, home and
43 auto maintenance, etiquette, managing money, healthy relationships, and
44 emergency preparedness.
45
46 Section 11: At the beginning of the class students will be given a list of items
47 that will be needed throughout the year. They are expected to bring the items
48 but if they are not able to, the items can be provided for them using the budget.
49
50 Section 12: All students, at the beginning of the year, will be given a waiver that
51 needs to be filled out and signed by parents and students regarding their safety
52 and agreeing that if the student is injured or otherwise harmed it is the students'
53 responsibility, not the schools.
54
55 Section 13: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
56
57 Section 14: This act shall take effect during the beginning of the 2022-2023
58 school year in order to provide time for schools to hire qualified teachers and set
59 up rules.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Mia Sabatini, Bailee Waye
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

**An Act to Ban Styrofoam Use in Public Schools in TN and Replace them
with more Environmentally Friendly Alternatives**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section I: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

- a) Polystyrene- A synthetic aromatic hydrocarbon polymer that is used in the production of styrofoam products
- b) Bagasse- A dry pulp substance acquired by extracting the juice from sugarcane; can also be a substitute for styrofoam
- c) Styrene- A synthetic chemical that is used to make plastics, rubbers, and resins
- d) Styrofoam- Expanded polystyrene
- e) Landfill- A location where waste material is disposed of by burning and covering in soil
- f) Carcinogen- A substance that is capable of causing cancer
- g) PLA lined paper: A material made of polylactic acid and cornstarch; it is used to make containers for food products
- h) Molded Fiber: A material made of recycled paper or other natural fibers; it is used to make containers for food products

Section II: All public schools in Tennessee will be required to switch from using their styrofoam products to using much more environmentally friendly alternatives such as Bagasse, PLA lined paper, Molded fiber, Aluminum, etc...

Section III: This act will be enforced by the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Department of Education

Section IV: This act will cost \$670,200,400 and will be funded through the Tennessee Department of Education budget. Funds used previously to purchase styrofoam trays may also be used to cover the expenses of this act

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in this conflict are hereby repealed

Section VI: This act will take effect on August 8, 2021

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



HOUSE COMMITTEE 4



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Jack Romero, Lucas Glass, Brooklyn Fite
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Increase Funding for Police Training in Tennessee

1 Whereas, the murders caused by police brutality is a complicated subject,
2 solving the problem is simple. Raising funding for police training so that police
3 officers are trained correctly will reduce police brutality, therefore

4
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

6
7 Section 1: Terms in this Act shall be defined as follows:

8 Police brutality- the use of excessive or unnecessary force by personnel affiliated
9 with law enforcement duties when dealing with suspects, civilians, and prisoners.

10 Police officer- the civil force of a national or local government, responsible for the
11 prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order.

12 Domestic dispute- A situation where two or more people living in the same
13 household are involved in a verbal or physical altercation and police intervention
14 is requested.

15
16 Section 2: This Act shall require that police officers shall get reformed training so
17 they can better detain the suspect if they are attempting to do harm to help
18 reduce police brutality.

19
20 Section 3: This Act will provide additional funding up to \$1 billion to be
21 distributed across Tennessee for additional police training.

22
23 Section 4: If an officer uses unjustified excessive force he or she should be
24 suspended from duty until taken to court, where a judge will determine their
25 consequence. Judges need to be fair and we recommend at least charging the
26 officer with voluntary manslaughter, put on trial, and fined for at least \$1,000.
27 They should get jail time.

28
29 Section 5: This will cost \$1 billion dollars at most. This is just a small dent in
30 Tennessee's \$12 billion annual fund. This will pay for better training, weapons,
31 and more officers trained in different things.

32
33 Section 6: All laws and parts of laws in conflict are hereby repealed.

34
35 Section 7: This act shall take effect as soon as possible the public welfare
36 requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Bess Innes, Emmaline Bradley-Shoup
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL-BASED THERAPIST IN EVERY SCHOOL

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 1) Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

4 Depression: A mental disorder that causes a constant feeling of sadness and loss
5 of interest

6 Federal funding: Government funding for projects, programs, and services from
7 the reservers of federal banks

8 Therapy: A counseling session where one meets with a therapist to resolve
9 feelings, behaviors, and issues

10
11 Section 2) This act requires the state of Tennessee to increase the availability of
12 a school-based therapist in all public schools in Tennessee

13 The school-based therapist will be available to all students during all school
14 hours for students that choose to work with them.

15
16 Section 3) Suicide rates between children ages 10-17 have gone up 54.5% in the
17 past two years. Less than 20 percent of youth with a severe mental disorder
18 receive treatment and providing a therapist during school hours to help bring
19 these numbers down.

20
21 Section 4) The funds used for enacting this bill would be provided by federal
22 funds and grants that will be used to hire a licensed therapist for schools

23
24 Section 5) This act will be enacted and all public schools in Tennessee shall
25 follow it by September 1, 2021.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Reed Peek, Jacob Vaughn
School: Legacy Middle School**

**An Act To Increase Public Health Coverage In Rural Counties In
Tennessee**

1 Be It Enacted by the Tennessee House of Representative

2
3 Section 1) Terms used in act, unless the context requires otherwise, shall be
4 defined as follows:

- 5 a) Rural area- any open country, or any place, town, village, or city which is not
6 part of or associated with an urban area and which has a population not in
7 excess of 5,000 inhabitants
8 b) Hospital- a large medical center which is accessible to all citizens.

9
10 Section 2) This act will require a minimum of one hospital per county in the state
11 of Tennessee, in addition, it will administer 17 more hospitals to rural counties
12 that need them most.

13
14 Section 3) Hospitals will be located towards the downtown of the city so it is
15 more accessible.

16
17 Section 4) For about thirty-seven hospitals: the cost will be about 2,250,000,000
18 the money will come from the Tennessee state treasury.

19
20 Section 5) All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

21
22 Section 6) This act shall take into effect on the day it is voted on and approved
23 by the house.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Matilda Joels
School: Baylor School**

**AN ACT TO BAN THE SELLING, TRADING, AND OWNING OF ASSAULT
WEAPONS, AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES.**

1 Section 1: Terms used in this act will be defined as follows:

2 A. Assault Rifle: any of various intermediate-range, magazine-fed military
3 rifles such as those that can be set for automatic or semiautomatic fire.

4 B. Magazine: an ammunition storage and feeding device for a repeating
5 firearm.

6 C. Medium range: up to one hundred feet.
7

8 Section 2: This act requires a budget of 50 million dollars, and a task force to
9 implement it.

10 A. A \$300 tax cut will be given to people who turn in weapons when
11 asked.
12

13 Section 3: People who will not surrender their weapons will be fined \$300 every
14 month they refuse to surrender their weapon.

15 A. Being caught with one of these weapons after one year this bill passed
16 the fine can be up to \$50,000.

17 B. One year after the bill is passed if you sell or trade assault weapons
18 repercussions include 10 years of jail time or more.
19

20 Section 4: The state will provide all money needed.
21

22 Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
23

24 Section 6 : This act will take effect after Covid-19 has subsided.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Sam Little, Paxton Barnes, Jackson Davis
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

**An Act to Change the Handgun Carry and Purchase Laws In Tennessee
From Age 21 to 18**

1 Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

2 The term "Handgun" means a weapon originally designed, made, and intended to
3 fire a projectile (bullet) from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and
4 having:

5
6 a chamber(s) as an integral part(s) of, or permanently aligned with, the bore(s);

7
8 and a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand at an angle to and
9 extending below the line of the bore(s).

10
11 Concealed Handgun Carry Permit - The handgun must always be concealed when
12 carried by the permittee. To obtain the permit they must meet the training
13 requirements and fill out a CCP Proof of Training form to submit along with
14 training proof. The permit expires 8 years after it is obtained and the owner
15 must reapply if they wish to continue to carry concealed. The owner may not
16 carry at any school or university. A name based background check must be
17 passed by the permittee every 5 years.

18
19 Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit - This permit allows the permittee to open or
20 concealed carry any handgun they legally possess. To obtain the permit they
21 must meet the training requirements and pay an application fee of \$100 or \$65 if
22 they are active duty or honourably discharged from the armed forces. The
23 permittee must have the permit in their immediate possession when they are
24 carrying a handgun and must produce the permit on demand of a law
25 enforcement officer. The permit expires 8 years after it is obtained and the
26 owner must reapply if they wish to continue carrying their handgun.

27
28 Section 2: The State of Tennessee shall implement the following changes about
29 handgun laws that all citizens should follow.

30
31 Section 3: The age to legally apply for concealed and enhanced carry permits will
32 be lowered from 21 to 18 years of age.

33
34 Section 4: You will not be permitted to buy a handgun, or handgun ammo from a
35 licensed seller under the age of 21.

36

37 Section 5: You are permitted to buy a handgun, or handgun ammo from an
38 unlicensed seller if you are 18 or over the age of 18
39
40 Section 6: This law shall allow people at and above the age of 18 to carry a
41 handgun to sufficiently defend themselves.
42
43 Section 7: This Law shall not require any funding.
44
45 Section 8: All laws or parts of laws conflicting this bill shall hereby be repealed
46
47 Section 9: This act shall be put into effect January 1st 2022
48



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Alex Jiang, Sofia Lima, Imad Tojaga, Ryan Gibson
School: East Hamilton Middle**

AN ACT TO HAVE SCHOOLS START NO EARLIER THAN 8:00 AM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1

Before/After Care: Programs for looking after children before and after school hours
Clause: a particular and separate article, stipulation, or proviso in a treaty, bill, or contract

Commissioner: A person appointed to a role on or by a commission.

Compensate: Give (someone) something, typically money, in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury incurred; recompense.

Conflict: A serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one.

Effective: successful in producing a desired or intended result.

Evidence: the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

Finance: The management of large amounts of money, especially by governments or large companies.

Fiscal: Relates to finance; money

Hereby: As a result of this document or utterance.

Insufficient: Not enough; inadequate

Manage: Be in charge of; administer; to run

Regulations: A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority

Repealing: revoke or annul (a law or congressional act).

Reported: having been formally or officially announced or described.

Statistic: A fact or piece of data from a study of a large quantity of numerical data

Tennessee Department of Education: The Tennessee Department of Education oversees public K-12 education in Tennessee.

SECTION 2

School start times will be no earlier than 8 AM and shall only apply to Tennessee public schools.

SECTION 3

A middle school reported that 57.8% of students had insufficient sleep, and 12% reported less than 6 hours of sleep.

SECTION 4

Before and aftercare programs will be set up for kids who either have to go to school early or have to be picked up from school later. (ex. Some parents have to leave early for work and can't leave kids at home)

39

40 SECTION 5

41 The change in school hours will cost about \$6,700,000 and will be managed by
42 the state's Commissioner of Finance and compensated by the Tennessee
43 Department of Education.

44

45 SECTION 6

46 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

47

48 SECTION 7

49 This act shall take effect on August 1st, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Keegan Hanzely, Quinn D'Amico, Chase Morton
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Restrict Hunting Deer

1 Section 1- Terms defined:

2 Establishment, the action of establishing
3 something or being established.

4 Refuges, a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble.

5 Feasible, possible to do easily or conveniently

6
7 Section 2- Be it enacted by the Tennessee Youth in Government that there
8 should be restrictions on hunting deer, and wildlife preservations to keep others
9 safe.

10
11 Section 3- If the deer population is estimated as 50% in Tennessee then an
12 amount of 8% of the deer population will be able to be hunted in 5 months, and
13 a change with if the deer is not fully grown then it may not be killed if killed then
14 there will be a penalty of \$100. As the amount of deer population increases or
15 decreases, The percentage of the deer population will change so it will stay even
16 between the amount able to be hunted and the population. (25% to 4%... 100%
17 to 16%, etc)

18
19 Section 4- This is so the population does not grow to be overwhelming so that
20 there will still be enough deer in Tennessee. A hunting license is required of any
21 person, regardless of age, who hunts any animal, bird, frog, or turtle in Texas
22 (except furbearers, if the hunter possesses a trapper's license.) See Hunting
23 Licenses and Permits. No license is required for nuisance fur-bearing animals,
24 depredating hogs, or coyotes.

25
26 Section 5- If hunters are found hunting after the state's limit of deer has been
27 reached, they will be fined a total of \$300 which will all go to wildlife
28 preservations to keep deer and people safe.

29
30 Section 6- All laws in conflict with this will be repealed.

31
32 Section 7- This will take effect starting the next hunting season, the public
33 welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



Sponsors: Beck Woodside, Cale Bobo
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School

An Act to Lower Student Loan Debt

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

Student loan - A student loan is a type of loan designed to help students pay for post-secondary education and the associated fees, such as tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses.

Student loan Debt - Student debt is a form of debt that is owed by an attending, formerly withdrawn, or graduated student to a lending institution, or to a financial institution.

Abbott - Abbott Laboratories is an American multinational medical devices and health care company with headquarters in Abbott Park, Illinois, United States.

And a common provider for student loans

Aetna Inc. - Aetna Inc. is an American managed health care company that sells traditional and consumer directed health care insurance and related services, such as medical, pharmaceutical, dental, behavioral health,

H.R.394 - COVID-19 Student Loan Relief Extension Act

H.R.251 - Public Service Appreciation Through Loan Forgiveness Act

Tennessee offers 2 years of community college for free only if said student has achieved a high enough college credits during high school enrolments.

Tennessee State Loan Repayment Program (TSLRP) - TSLRP provides educational loan repayment to qualified primary care practitioners in exchange for an initial 2 year service obligation to practice full-time or part-time at an ambulatory public, non-profit or private non-profit primary care site located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

Federal student loans offer benefits that many other loans don't. One benefit is the ability to qualify for loan forgiveness-under special circumstances, the federal government may forgive part, or all, of your federal student loans. This means you're no longer obligated to make your loan payments.

Section 2: The following act of the Student Loan Repayment Program would hold colleges accountable for their current pricing of students, but also give students access to free financial aid from their institution of higher learning all while finding out how well students are able to pay off their debt. The financial aid plan will come with financial planners and with some charges students could possibly pay for better financial aid and help. A free program would be given to students, as this program would only be available for 2 years on a bachelor degree program and 3 years for a masters degree program.

Section 3: This act outlines the financial aid plan step by step.

38 The student that has been enrolled in the college will be offered the 2 year plan
39 of financial aid and help along with optional charges for better help over the first
40 year. It will help the student feel more comfortable and understand how to spend
41 and persevere their money as well as time. The student would be set with a
42 counselor for an optional meeting for help if needed in the second year.
43 There will also be Loan forgiveness which only under a special or emergency
44 circumstances the Government may forgive a part if not all of your loans towards
45 the federal government for the first 20 years after graduation. Students will be
46 pushed to try to help on their own by cutting down meetings and a little less help
47 but mainly seeing how they would do without the program after that second
48 year. If found ok to continue will be let go from the program and offered
49 refinance help but will also offer 20 year student loan debt decrease.

50
51 Section 5: This act will go into effect in 2022-23 academic school year on a trial
52 basis with the University of Tennessee. Contingent upon the success of the pilot
53 program at the University of Tennessee, the act will go into effect for all public
54 higher institutions of learning by the start of the 2024-2025 academic school
55 year.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Hunter Johnson, William Karen Patmor
School: Heritage Middle School**

**An Act to Require adding Social Emotional Learning classes to Middle
and High Schools**

1 Social Emotional Learning is a program that would help students comprehend
2 their emotions to understand them fully. The teachings in this program would be
3 designed to help students make positive choices and can help evaluate teenagers
4 who may be at risk for health issues, substance abuse, or criminal behavior.

5
6 In general, this class will also teach students how to handle their emotions, as
7 well as how to understand and help with other people's emotions. All of these
8 skills will help students in the future with situations they will come across in their
9 adult and adolescent life.

10
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

12
13 Section 1: Prosocial behaviors=Behaviors that are intended to help others, such
14 as kindness, sharing, and empathy.

15
16 Section 2: Social Emotional Learning= The process of learning to make positive
17 goals, learning to be empathetic, and to have the knowledge and aptitudes to
18 create positive relationships.

19
20 Section 3: All High Schools will be required to offer a course on Social Emotional
21 Class for 1 semester or ½ credit in 11th or 12th grade

22
23 Section 4: All high school students will be required to take this class in 11th or
24 12th grade.

25
26 Section 5: All Middle schools must offer it as an elective or a rotational class for
27 every grade taught at the school.

28
29 Section 6: A version of the class will be offered online for students who want to
30 learn more. However, the online class will not be considered towards their
31 credit.

32
33 Section 7: The class will be taught 4 periods per school day in high school, with
34 those periods distinguished by school itself. Two of these periods will be for
35 students in 11th grade and the other two will be for students in twelfth grade.

36
37 Section 8: The standards of this course will be set by the Board of Education.

38
39 Section 9: The amount of teachers hired can be determined by the school itself,
40 based on the amount of students attending the school. Most schools will only
41 require one teacher for this class.
42
43 Section 10: The approximate cost of this Act in the first year is \$87140K
44 (\$87,140,000), and was approximated using cost from hiring, classroom
45 supplies, etc. Some of this money will be covered by funding already granted to
46 local schools systems. The remaining amount will be funded by the Tennessee
47 department of Education budget.
48
49 Section 10: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.
50
51 Section 11: This act will take effect June 14th, 2021, public welfare required.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



HOUSE COMMITTEE 5



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Campbell Miller
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

A bill to pay all servers and tipped wage workers minimum wage

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 SECTION 1: Terms in the Act will be defined as follows:

4 Minimum Wage - The lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement,
5 such as with a Labor Union. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour

6 Living Wage - A wage that is high enough to maintain a normal standard of
7 living. The US's living wage is listed as \$16.54 an hour.

8 Tipped Wage - A base wage paid to an employee who receives a substantial
9 amount of compensation from tips. America's tipping wage is \$2.13 an hour

10 Tip - A sum of money given by a client or customer, in addition to the basic price
11 of service, for outstanding service

12
13 SECTION 2: This Bill will require that all people currently working on a tipped
14 wage are paid a base salary of \$7.25 an hour regardless of how much they are
15 able to make from commission or from tips.

16
17 SECTION 3: This Bill will allow restaurants to increase their prices by 15-20% to
18 provide the funding for higher wages.

19
20 SECTION 4: Upon food inspections, restaurant owners must also be required to
21 provide the wages of their workers to guarantee servers are being paid the
22 appropriate wage.

23
24 SECTION 5: In order to enforce this, a fine of \$500 per server will be charged to
25 restaurants found to be paying less than the state's minimum wage. This fine will
26 be repeated every month until proper pay is provided to the workers.

27
28 SECTION 6: If a restaurant should withhold this fine, their establishment can be
29 temporarily shut down.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Aidan Sullivan, Russell Moffett
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Provide School Choice for TN Families

1 Parents should choose where their kids go to school because of the
2 inconveniences. Lots of times, schools are very far away and parents have to
3 stress just to make it on time and sometimes they would be late to work. We
4 think that education should be the child's and parents' choice. Lots of times kids
5 will be zoned to schools that are very far away and sometimes it's a hassle
6 because parents don't want to be late for work so they have to figure out other
7 alternatives.

8
9 "School choice allows public education funds to follow students to the schools or
10 services that best fit their needs."

11
12 School zoning is bad in many ways. "Zoning limits poor families access to good
13 schools. Separate is not equal, because almost half of school funding derives
14 from local sources, poor students are left with less funding relative to student
15 need and less experienced teachers."According to a new report from the
16 Brookings Institution, "Being raised in an area with overly restrictive zoning
17 controls can doom children to getting stuck in bad schools, which in turn can
18 greatly limit their lifetime educational attainment and economic success."

19
20 School zoning is discriminatory to students who can't afford to live in a zone with
21 better schools.

22
23 School choice is a great thing in our opinion because of letting students and
24 parents choose schools based on their needs. Maybe the student wants to go to
25 schools with all their friends or maybe they like the overall layout or construction
26 of a school. Kids may choose a school based on sports, or overall education. All
27 in all, We think parents should choose a school that best fits their child's needs,
28 and we think that zoning should not be enforced anymore.

29
30 We think every kid should have an equal education opportunity. Kids that live in
31 rough areas get zoned to rough schools. So we think that every kid should have
32 the chance of going to a good school by placing them on a scholarship and if
33 they start doing bad, then they can't go there anymore. But we think every kid
34 should have a chance at the school they want.

35
36 "Public policies should address housing market regulations that create obstacles
37 to lower-income children attending high-scoring public schools. By doing this, we
38 can help promote individual social mobility and broader economic security."

39

40 For a resolution, we think that smart children in low income schools should have
41 a chance at a great school for their future. And you may be asking yourself, what
42 happens to the poor school when the students leave it? Will the school have any
43 students? The answer is yes. Because not all kids will go to the new schools, only
44 students who are serious about their education and are very smart who could
45 make it to a higher standard. But when students leave the schools to go to
46 better ones, there will still be plenty of students there so the school doesn't have
47 to get shut down.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Michael Fojas, Cairo Weaver
School: Heritage Middle School**

An Act asking for the Assistance with Veterans' Finances

1 With the veteran's treasury pay becoming more broke, it is unable to support the
2 financially unstable veterans, leading to more homeless veterans.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

5
6 Section 1: We ask upon the delegates from the state of Tennessee to fund and
7 organize a Veteran Funding Agency - for retired and homeless veterans in the
8 state of Tennessee.

9
10 Section 2: We ask once the foundation is made, give it fund of \$3.75 million to
11 help fund the veterans.

12
13 Section 3: We ask to send some volunteers to locate veterans and ask if they
14 need any financial assistance and how much they need.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Will Rogers, Brynlee Seay
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Require Better Pay for Teachers

Whereas, there is a tremendous need for high quality teachers in Tennessee in order to improve education of our students, and better pay will attract such teachers, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 2021 TENNESSEE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

a) salary: a fixed regular payment, typically paid on a monthly or biweekly basis but often expressed as an annual sum, made by an employer to an employee, especially a professional or white-collar worker.

b) remuneration: money paid for work or a service.

c) revenue: income, especially when in an organization of an essential nature.

Section 2: This Act shall require the government to raise teacher salaries. The General Assembly obliterated a \$117 million, 4% educator raise in June 2020, due to perceived falling revenue due to the pandemic. Appropriating \$200 million is necessary to compensate for the lost raise and provide an additional raise, and is still affordable. A more significant investment will go a long way in recognizing the extraordinary effort of our state's educators.

Section 3: The purpose of this Act is to require better pay for educators. Currently, some educators are working two or more occupations and still not receiving enough remittance. Additionally, 20% of educators work a second profession during the school year, which is responsible for 9% of teacher remuneration.

Section 4: The state will provide funds to each school district to then provide the raises for the teachers. If a school district does not provide the raises, the first offense penalty for violating this law is paying \$3,000 monthly for 6 months. The penalty will increase by \$3000 every 6 months until the violator discontinues his or her actions.

Section 5: This act will approximately cost \$200 million would be more appropriate and still be affordable. A more significant investment will go a long way in recognizing the extraordinary effort of our state's educators.

Section 6: All laws of parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

Section 7: This act shall take effect July 1, 2021, or the beginning of the school year.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Isabel Frieberg, Emily Chambless, Edith Chapman
School: Legacy Middle School**

An Act to Raise Teachers Salaries in Public Schools

1 "BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT."

2
3 Section 1: Minimum- the least amount possible.

4 Troublesome- causing trouble, annoyance, or difficulty; vexatious.

5 Salary- a fixed compensation periodically paid to a person for regular work or
6 services.

7 Teacher- a person who teaches or instructs, especially as a professional;
8 instructor.

9 Wage- often wages, money that is paid or received for work or services, as by
10 the hour, day, or week.

11 Underpaid- not paid enough underpaid and overworked.

12 School- is an institution where instruction is given, especially to persons under
13 college age.

14 Severely- to a distressing or highly uncomfortable degree.

15 Knowledge- acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or
16 investigation; general erudition.

17
18 Section 2: Teachers teaching in elementary schools in Tennessee should be paid
19 a minimum wage of \$90,000.

20
21 They are severely underpaid and have to know the curriculum as well as teach it
22 to young troublesome kids.

23
24 Section 3: Teachers teaching in middle schools should be paid a minimum wage
25 of \$80,000 due to the higher demand for money out of pocket and of course all
26 the troublesome kids.

27
28 Section 4: Teachers teaching in high school should be paid a minimum wage of
29 \$100,000 due to the higher demand for knowledge and patience.

30
31 Section 5: We ask Tennessee's Board of Education to save \$200,000,000 for the
32 raise of teacher salaries.

33
34 Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed

35
36 Section 7: This act shall take effect on March 24th,2021 the public welfare
37 requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Caroline Hendren, Sophia Peila, Clayton Sweetman
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act To Make More Check-ins with Adopted Children

1 Section 1- Terms defined in this act:

2 A; Adoption: when a child is raised by another family

3 B; Social Workers: work carried out by trained personnel to alleviate the
4 conditions of those in need of help or welfare.

5 C; Abused: (of a person or animal) treated with cruelty or violence, especially
6 regularly or repeatedly.

7 D; Neglected: fail to care for properly.
8

9 Section 2- BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
10 that once every other month, social workers need to check in on their assigned
11 child. Just to make sure that the child is not being abused by the adopters.
12 Social workers need to check in on the child once every month in case the child
13 is secretly being abused or not getting what they need. If it sounds like
14 everything is going well then the social worker can come back in 2 months. If the
15 child is being treated badly then the social worker will report it and talk to the
16 guardians. Normally the social workers would only check in on the child 6
17 months then stop but our bill will ensure that Social workers check-in on them
18 until they get to the age of 17.
19

20 Section 3- This bill requires around 2,000 new social workers in Tennessee to be
21 hired and to train them to check in on the adopted children. The government
22 would pay all of the new social workers a \$41,000 salary to check in on children
23 that are adopted, that would be their only job. The social worker's job is to
24 check-in on a couple of adopted children under the age of 17 every day, to make
25 sure they are not being abused. They would check-in on each child every other
26 month.
27

28 Section 4- All other laws in conflict with this law will be repealed.
29

30 Section 5- We would like our state law to come into effect on September 25,
31 2022. We would want it to be in effect on that date because it will take a while
32 for the law to be approved and then we would need to train new social workers
33 to do that specific job.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Evan Ash, Shreeyans Dodda, Carson Pearce
School: East Hamilton Middle**

An Act To Reduce Plastic and Waste Pollution by 25%

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act, unless context requires otherwise, shall be defined as follows:

Carbon dioxide: A colorless, odorless gas produced by burning carbon and organic compounds and by respiration. It is naturally present in the air (about 0.03 percent) and is absorbed by plants during photosynthesis.

Greenhouse gas: A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, e.g., carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons.

Microplastics: Extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste.

Pollution: The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance or thing that has harmful or poisonous effects.

Recycling: Recycling is the action or process of converting waste into reusable material.

Recycling facilities: a facility at which materials are prepared for reuse in their original form or for use in manufacturing processes that do not cause the destruction of the materials in a manner that precludes further use.

Section 2: A discussion of what this act aims to effectuate:

This is an act that will be put in place to reduce 25% of Tennessee's plastic. In this bill, we are seeking a budget of (\$30,000,000. Our workers will work for a year under a wage of \$20 for 1 hour of labor and we will provide them with breaks and nourishment. We will be responsible for hiring these employees. The plastic will be taken to a recycling facility to be recycled.

Section 3: This bill will affect the citizens of Tennessee that live in areas filled with microplastics and will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air for them. Greenhouse gases will be reduced and temperatures will decrease from the high it is reaching. The government of Tennessee that will provide funding to our ambition. The recycling facilities and landfills will also be notified of these changes.

Section: 4: In regards to the location of where our hired workers will spread out among the areas that make up 25% of Tennessee's plastic contamination which is 181,023.5 short tons.

39 Section 5: This bill will cost \$30,000,000 and will be funded through the
40 Tennessee government's money.
41
42 Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed
43
44 Section 7: This act will take place on July 1, 2022 and will last until July 1, 2023.
45
46 Section 8: As a result of this bill, the communities and areas that will be affected
47 will be more sanitary. Recycling will provide the state of Tennessee with a better
48 environment and more materials for later use. This act shall also grant others
49 more jobs and help fight unemployment.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



Sponsors: Joseph Sherrard, Jerry Greeson

School: Signal Mountain Middle School

**AN ACT TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF ASSIGNED HOMEWORK IN MIDDLE
AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN TENNESSEE**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1: Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:

Homework: Schoolwork students take home with them to complete after school hours, as assigned by teachers.

Limiting: Decreasing the amount or time taken up by a certain item/practice.

Assign: To designate or set aside to be completed.

Middle School: School with subjects/courses spanning from 6th grade topics to 8th grade topics.

Elementary School: School with subjects/courses spanning from 1st grade topics to 5th grade topics.

Section 2: This act limits the amount of assigned homework teachers can give to middle and elementary school students. The amount is limited to around 5 minutes of work to 20 minutes of work, and teachers cannot assign more than 3 assignments a week that take the aforementioned times to complete.

Section 3: This work can be in the form of a paper worksheet or a digital website or app found on a computer, iPad, laptop, iPhone, etc. The teacher will have a week-long packet of homework that should be completed by the end of the week if the student is productive in the assigned time each night.

Section 4: These types of assignments are subject to the time limit and must be assigned as time increments. For example, a student might be assigned to do 15 minutes of homework, that they must complete and then turn in to their teacher. They will log the amount of time they spent on the assignment. Parents will sign the homework to show that the student spent a valid amount of time on it and to show that the student actually took that amount of time.

Section 5: The teacher will have set an amount of time that the assignment should take to be completed. The teacher can then decide if the amount of work done in the assignment was valid in comparison to the average time it took.

Section 6: If a student had trouble completing the assignment and took a longer time to complete it than other students, the teacher will confirm with the parents that this is a true excuse. Then the teacher will know to work with the student further on that topic.

Section 7: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 8: This act shall take effect on August 4th, 2021.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Sean Harvey, Ivan Bocanegra, Thomas Sartin
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Create Online Sales Tax in Tennessee to Support Small Businesses

1 Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic hardship for many small
2 businesses in Tennessee and supporting these small businesses will help the economy
3 of Tennessee and improve the lives of Tennesseans, and by creating an additional Tax
4 for online sales, local businesses will be assisted with all extra tax sales, therefore,
5

6 Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
7

8 Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

9 Tax :a sum of money demanded by a government for its support or for specific
10 facilities or services, levied upon incomes, property, sales, etc.

11 Disrupting : The action of temporarily interrupting a flow of some sort.

12 Margin: the point at which the return from economic activity barely covers the
13 cost of production, and below which production is unprofitable.
14

15 Section 2: Currently small businesses are struggling to keep up, especially during a
16 pandemic, disrupting the economic climate in many ways, making chances of
17 survival for those local businesses decrease. This Act shall increase a tax on online
18 sales, therefore creating a way to support small businesses by giving them that
19 extra money to go on, not only until the end of the pandemic, but beyond.
20

21 Section 3: The purpose of this Act is to enforce an increase of online taxing by
22 an extra 4% taxing in order to provide supporting salary in order to sustain small
23 businesses until those small local businesses are popular enough to sustain on a
24 steady income of money, detachment for tax programs will be set at a margin
25 via local government.
26

27 Section 4: Describe consequences here. The first offense penalty for violating
28 this law would be charged with tax evasion as well as if a court of law finds
29 admissible first degree fraud. Any further penalty will result in a fine of 750\$ as
30 well as earlier introduced penalties (Terms apply to only online companies)
31

32 Section 5: This law will make the final cost of online items increase by upgrading
33 the online sales tax, therefore allowing the bill to pay for itself.
34

35 Section 6: All laws of parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.
36

37 Section 7: This act shall take effect the first of the next month directly after this
38 bill is adopted , as the public welfare requires it.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



HOUSE COMMITTEE 6



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Asher O'Neill, AnnaRose Krupek, Waylon Weaver, Landon Greathouse
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

**An Act to Prohibit Smoking Around Minors and Pregnant Women in
Vehicles and Public Places**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

2
3 Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

- 4 a) Smoking products - Cigarettes, cigars, vapes, ect. Any tobacco or nicotine
5 product.
6 b) Public place - An area that is open to the public. Indoors or outdoors.
7 c) Vehicle - Any car, airplane or jet, motorcycle, train, or any other motorized
8 vehicle.
9 d) Second smoke - Smoke that comes from a tobacco or nicotine product

10
11 Section 2: This act calls for all citizens to cease smoking in public places or in
12 any vehicle with a minor or pregnant woman present. When using smoking
13 products around minors or pregnant women, the penalty will be a fine of 200
14 USD.

15 a) This act shall be enforced by Law enforcement officers through the writing of
16 citations and fines upon citizens smoking in the presence of minors or pregnant
17 women.

18
19 Section 3: Minors and pregnant women are affected by secondhand smoke
20 though increased risk of asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections,
21 and sudden infant death syndrome. Adults can end up with coronary heart
22 disease, stroke, and lung cancer from secondhand smoke. According to the CDC,
23 1,000 infants die per year in the US from their mothers smoking.

24
25 Section 4: This act will not cost taxpayers any money, as it will be enforced by
26 law enforcement officers. Although vehicles are considered personal property,
27 due to the harmful nature of secondhand smoke to minors or pregnant women, it
28 shall be the state's responsibility to protect the health and future of vulnerable
29 populations. These citations and fines do not cover a pregnant woman using
30 smoking products themselves. This does not cover a minor smoking themselves.

31
32 Section 5: This act will go into effect on June 21, 2021, the public welfare
33 requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Keiron Davis, McKenzie Duggan
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Link Smoking Cessation Programs To Healthcare Services

1 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government:

2
3 Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

4 Cancer: A disease in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and destroy body
5 tissue.

6 Tobacco Quitline: A toll free number people can call to get advice and
7 information to help them quit smoking

8 Smoking Cessation: To quit smoking.

9 Healthcare Service: any medical or remedial care or service, including supplies
10 delivered in connection with the care or service, that is recognized under state
11 law.

12
13 Section 2: This Act shall require the full coverage and aid, by healthcare
14 services, of smoking cessation methods including but not limited to: medicines,
15 counseling, and further urging healthcare professionals to provide advice on
16 quitting (e.g. tobacco quitlines)

17
18 Section 3: The purpose of this Act is to improve the health of Tennesseans. By
19 encouraging and supporting smokers to quit smoking, patients' health will
20 improve and reduce the likelihood of cancer and other chronic diseases.

21
22 Section 4: If an organization were to ignore this law, said organization would be
23 issued a warning. If this warning were also to be breached, then the company
24 would be fined a minimum of \$500,000, increasing with repeated offense.

25
26 Section 5: This Act will have little to no cost, as the savings outweigh the total
27 cost of treating the diseases that are caused by smoking

28
29 Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

30
31 Section 7: This Act shall take effect on January 5, 2022
32



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Jakob Gingerich, Grayson Barcenilla, Odin Schultz, Henry Baldwin
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Reduce Litter Rates

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1: Terms of this act will be defined as follows:

Campaign - An organized course of action to achieve a goal

Litter - Unintentional or intentional incorrectly disposed trash

Section 2:

Creating an anti-littering campaign

A campaign will be created to show awareness of the problems of littering in the state of Tennessee. By creating an Anti-Littering Campaign, the state of Tennessee's goal is to decrease litter rates along major highways. This act will establish an advisory committee that will create an easy-to identify mascot and all campaign materials.

Raising the fines for littering on public roads

The small monetary fine for littering is not acting as enough of a deterrent for litters. County and city governments can decide on a minimum fine for littering so long as it is over 80 dollars, 30 dollars above the current fine for mitigated criminal littering.

Increased Enforcement Littering Laws

County and City Officials will highlight the increased fines with all law enforcement officials and select the most littered locations in local areas for increased patrol. It will be up to county and city officials to decide on shifts and placements for law enforcement officers.

Section 3:

a) The litter rates in Tennessee, while having reduced some in the past 20 years, are still very high, as research shows that there are over 100 million pieces of litter on TDOT rights-of-way. While as much as 72% of the litter is unintentional, Tennesseans can reduce their environmental impact by understanding that much of Tennessee's litter comes from uncovered truck beds or car accidents. An Anti-Littering Educational Campaign can help Tennesseans become more understanding of how they contribute to the littering problem.

c) While most litter is unintentional, conscious litters do not have a large enough fine for mitigated criminal littering, which is only fifty dollars. Under current state law, the only stronger penalty for littering is criminal littering, which forces offenders to clean up trash along state highways and other public roads. Criminal littering is classified as dumping more than 5 pounds of trash or 7½

cubic feet of overall trash volume. Criminal littering does have a punishment:
cleaning up trash on highways and other public roads.

Section 4:

- a) Under current Tennessee state law and the proposed bill, individuals that unintentionally litter can and will be fined for their environmental negligence.
- b) Law Enforcement Officers pay shall not be impacted by the proposed bill, as enforcement of littering laws have not changed, there is simply an increased penalty.
- c) The Anti-Littering Campaign will be funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Section 5: This act will go into effect on June 30, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Brennan Eckert, Nam Tran, Kobe Maddux-Rivers, Jack Pendleton
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**AN ACT TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC
SCHOOL LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS.**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 1:

4 Obesity: A disorder involving excessive body fat that increases the risk of health problems

5 Public School: A school supported by public funds

6 Fresh: Recently made or obtained; not canned or frozen

7 Abide: Accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation).

8 USDA: a federal agency that proposes programs and implements policies and regulations
9 related to American farming, forestry, ranching, food quality, and nutrition

10 Produce: make or manufacture from components or raw materials

11 Provide: make available for use

12 Lunch: a meal eaten in the middle of the day

13 Breakfast: a meal eaten at the beginning of the day

14
15 Section 2: This act will increase the total amount of money provided in order to produce
16 and make food for public school lunches and breakfasts for K-12 by 25%.

17
18 Section 3: In the state of Tennessee, 20.4% of youth ages 10-17 currently have obesity.

19
20 Section 4: This bill will help provide fresher and healthier food in order to keep kids healthy
21 and decrease the obesity rate in Tennessee.

22
23 Section 5: The funds for this act will be provided by the state of Tennessee and the USDA.

24
25 Section 6: This bill will add around \$7,500,000 yearly to the total amount of money
26 provided for school lunches and breakfasts yearly in the state of Tennessee. The total
27 amount of money for lunches and breakfasts will be \$37,500,000 after the act.

28
29 Section 7: The governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee will enforce this bill, and schools that do not
30 abide by this bill will be fined a total of \$5,000 every month they do not abide by this law,
31 making sure the schools put the money toward only school lunches and breakfasts.

32
33 Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act shall be hereby repealed.

34
35 Section 9: This act will take effect on August 1, 2021, for public schools across the state of
36 Tennessee.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: McCoyler Thach, Tyler Borden, John Walker Revell
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Regulate Foods in Tennessee

1 Whereas, processed foods are a contributing factor to obesity and other health
2 problems in our state and these foods include unhealthy ingredients that could
3 be replaced with healthy ingredients for the benefit of the citizens of Tennessee,
4 therefore

5
6 Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

7
8 Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

9 Ingredients: any of the foods or substances that are combined to make a
10 particular dish.

11 Obesity: a condition characterized by the excessive accumulation and storage of
12 fat in the body, with a body mass index of 30 or higher based on height and
13 weight.

14 Adulteration: the action of making something poorer in quality by the addition of
15 another substance.

16 Mutated: to cause a change in form or nature.

17
18 Section 2: This Act shall require all food companies in the state of Tennessee
19 who are at fault of using unnatural and mutated ingredients transition into using
20 more simplistic ingredients. This can help reduce the obesity rate in Tennessee,
21 and decrease the amount of citizens in Tennessee who are at risk of becoming
22 hospitalized due to the adulteration in the foods they eat.

23
24 Section 3: This Act will require that Tennessee's food companies reduce
25 production of processed foods and unnatural syrups. We appeal for Tennessee's
26 produce companies to remove any harmful ingredients, and replace them with
27 harmless, and organic ones. This will likely help reduce the obesity rate. We ask
28 for the government to help enforce food companies in Tennessee to use healthy,
29 and all-natural ingredients in their food.

30
31 Section 4: The purpose of this Act shall be to assist the decreasing of obesity
32 that occurs in Tennessee. Today, statistics show that the obesity rate in
33 Tennessee has reached 36%, reaching its way up to 40%. This bill mainly
34 discusses how and why we'd like to regulate foods, and help stop adulteration in
35 the foods we eat everyday, that are supposed to be natural, and healthy.

36
37 Section 5: The first offense penalty for violating this law will be that any
38 company who has used any unnatural, or dangerous chemicals in their products,

39 will be fined \$350k. The second offense can cause the company's owner, or
40 executive, to be fined \$700k-\$850k. A company's third offense penalty can
41 commence the owner to become a Class B felony, and prevail in prison for up to
42 30 years.

43
44 Section 6: The total cost will be an estimate of \$200,000 for overseeing the
45 implementation of this law. This will be potentially paid for by any fines
46 incurred.

47
48 Section 7: All laws a part of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

49
50 Section 8: This act shall take effect August 13, 2021.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Torin Young, Carver Snyder
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

An act to repeal Article IX, Section 2 of the Tennessee State Constitution

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms used in this act, unless the context requires otherwise, shall be defined as follows:

Atheism: the denial of the existence of any god or gods, and an afterlife of any shape or form

Religion: The belief in a higher being or other force beyond that of humans, or an afterlife

Section 2: Approximately 14 percent of Tennessee adult residents identify as non-religious, thus this many, possibly more people are not able to hold state office. This infringes upon article 1, section 4 of the constitution, "That no political or religious test, other than an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and of this state, shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under this state." This states that a religious test cannot be given to anyone attempting to hold an office.

Section 3: The existence of Article IX, Section 2 of the Tennessee State Constitution infringes upon the individual right given by the first amendment of the United States Constitution that all people have the right to "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This amendment specifies the need for separation of church and state and the right of any individual to be held to equal standards and not halted by their beliefs.

Section 4: Any piece of legislation that violates the Constitution of the United States should be revoked, as it directly counteracts the purpose of that national law.

Section 5: This act shall fall as an amendment to the Tennessee state Constitution, and will follow the verification procedures thusly.

Section 6: This legislation shall prevent the further passing of legislation to require any form of religious alignment to be elected for any office of the state. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 7: Upon being passed, this bill will take effect immediately



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Lily Haynes, Claire Allen
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

**An Act to Require Tennessee State Parks to Charge an Entrance Fee or
Hand out an Annual Pass to Fund the Park and its Needs**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section I) Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

- a) Entrance Fee: A sum of money that you pay before you enter a place such as an amusement park or museum
- b) Annual Pass: An annual subscription that allows you to enter a building or piece of land with no fee for a year.
- c) Visitor: A person visiting a person or place
- d) State Park: an area of land that is owned and protected by a U.S. state because of its natural beauty or its importance in history
- e) Toll Booth: A booth where drivers must pay to use or enter a road or area of land

Section II) This act requires all Tennessee state parks to charge an entrance fee of \$5 for visitors or to pay a one-time fee of \$50 for an annual pass. The government would fund a small toll booth at the entrance of the parks for visitors to pay at. The money raised will go to funding for the parks and its needs.

Section III) This act will be enforced to use the money received from entrance fees of \$5 or annual passes equivalent to \$50 to help maintain them so that they are clean, healthy, and a place for animals to enjoy and live. This money will come from visitors or anybody entering the parks.

Section IV) For this act, the people that would make sure everyone follows this new law are the gatekeepers or the people controlling the toll booth. Also, anyone in the park that is controlling it such as park rangers or police also have to make sure everyone follows this law.

Section V) For this new law every person who refuses and does not pay the entrance fee or annual pass fee will not be able to enter the park. If it so happens though that they do get past without paying they shall be fined \$200 and if the action is repeated they shall be fined \$1000.

Section VI) This new act will cost around a maximum of \$9,000,000 for each toll booth within each State Park and somewhere around a maximum of \$500,000,000 total. The money will be funded by the government.

Section VII) All law or parts of laws in conflict with this in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section VIII) This new act will take effect on August 1st, 2022



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**Sponsors: Acheena Cantrell, Brooke Anderson, Zander Brill, Titus Miles
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act To Incorporate Important Life Skills Into School Curriculum

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1: Definitions

I.T. - Someone that works with computers and technology

Section 2 : Terms in this act are defined as follows:

a) Online Safety: Students will be informed about online safety on websites that may be untrustworthy. Some websites can steal information or infect a device with a virus. As many as 9 million people in the United States have their identity stolen per year.

b) Job Application: Students in this class will learn how to correctly apply for a job. If someone doesn't apply correctly, it can affect them long term. If schools just simply taught students what to do, many more teens could get jobs. Not to mention teens afraid to apply because they don't know what to expect or how to go about applying for the position.

c) Drivers Education: The third class is drivers education. Students in this class will learn how to drive a car, read road signs, etc. Auto accidents claim more lives than any disease, murder, or drowning. If students learned the dangers of the road, then accidents and fatalities could be more avoided. As of right now, if teens want to learn how to drive, they have to pay for a class that takes place outside of school, or parents have to teach their kids sometimes using illegal methods like driving on roads underage. This can lead to accidents.

d) Financing: This class will teach students how to do things that they will need later in life that have to do with money. It would incorporate skills such as paying taxes, managing a bank account, and mortgage payments.

Section 3: All counties in the state of Tennessee must add two life skill focused courses to the curriculum. These classes will be considered electives that the student would choose to take.

Section 4: Students will be given more opportunity to be successful after high school and college (if the student chooses to attend) without unnecessary time taken out of their lives trying to learn this.

Section 5: If a student decides to take an Online Safety course, a hired I.T. will take charge of this class.

Section 6: This act shall take effect in Fall 2023.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



SENATE COMMITTEE 1



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Grier Staton, Margot Rhem, Ella Carollo, Layla Martzall
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Install Solar Powered Street Lights Throughout Tennessee

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

Solar Power - Power obtained by harnessing the energy of the sun's rays.

Cost Effective - Something that is of good value, where the benefits and usage are worth at least what is paid for them.

Solar Powered Street Lights - Raised light sources which are powered by solar panels generally mounted on the lighting structure.

Section 2: Due to the lack of streetlights throughout the roadways of Tennessee there are many vehicular accidents because of poor visibility at night. Over 50 percent of vehicular accidents occur at night. Tennessee needs more street lights on roads for safer driving conditions. To increase visibility on roads and create safer driving conditions, the Tennessee Department of Transportation will install 1,500 solar powered street lights in target areas across the state with a higher number of traffic accidents at night.

Section 3: Solar panel street lights will be used instead of traditional street lights to reduce costs and to be econscious by using natural resources for energy. According to The Federal Highway Administration, more street lights would decrease traffic accidents by 25-40% in Tennessee. This proves that Tennessee's dark roads need to be illuminated to increase visibility. According to The Solar Foundation, Solar panel street lights are cost effective and save the environment by harnessing the sun's energy to conserve energy and resources. This proves that solar panel street lights are cost effective and would decrease the state's overall spending on energy.

Section 4: This act will be funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation under the LED Streetlight Replacement Program. About 1.5 million lights will be installed over the next 2 years. In five years one traditional street light costs \$8,200, while one solar panel street light costs \$4,200. It costs \$2,500 and 4 to 5 people to install a solar panel street light. By going solar Tennessee would save \$3,400 per streetlight every five years. Solar street lights use the photovoltaic effect, being able to save energy throughout the day. Over 7,300 schools across the U.S have gone solar, saving money and resources, while proving that solar panels are better for the environment.

Section 5: This act will go into effect on June 24th, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Adrianna Praino, Carli Hickman
School: Hixson Middle School**

AN ACT TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT THAT:

SECTION 1: Schools require one day off a month to ensure the mental health of both students and staff.

SECTION 2: Students and faculty should have one day off school every month outside of weekends, holidays, and snow days. Students and faculty need time off to maintain a stable mental state. Each school district is required to have 180 school days with 6.5 hours per day. This bill will allow each school district to adjust their calendar to include the wellness days in whatever means they need to.

SECTION 3: These days will be set by each individual district in the state of Tennessee.

SECTION 4: This course of action shall not cost any money, but instead, will help the individual schools save on the expenses of wifi, water, electricity, gas, etc.

SECTION 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6: This act shall take effect on August 1st, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.

SECTION 7: School districts that decide not to obey this rule will be required to attend a state-mandated professional development.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Lauren Pearson, Henley Boyd, Kathryn Britt
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Section 1- Terms Defined:

a. Death Penalty/Captial Punishment- a state-sanctioned homicide as punishment for a crime. The sentence order that someone is punished with the death penalty is called a death sentence, and the act of carrying out such a sentence is known as an execution.

b. Exonerated- innocent people are arrested, convicted and sent to prison for crimes they did not commit through either unethical or illegal misconduct by state officials.

Section 2- Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government that: Criminals should stay in jail and should not get sentenced to death no matter what crime they commit. If the criminal is mentally unstable then they should have access to therapy in jail or help for their mental illness. Criminals would go to court and have a trial like normal, but if they commit murder or something that would usually get the death penalty they could not get a second trial to be put on death row. The people who were supposed to be put on death row would just be put into jail or depending on if they are insane or mentally ill they could go to an insane asylum and if they get the help they need they can go back to the normal jail system.

Section 3- The death penalty is cruel and should not be used. It is also cruel because it is a punishment to the family members and relatives to see a loved one killed who could have been innocent. If they were in jail they could easily come to visit them but if they are killed it would cut off all ties to them. If someone is killed and later found to be innocent it would be even harder on family members and would have no effect but if they were just in jail and found innocent they could be set back into society to live their normal life.

Section 4- In Tennessee, it costs 23,468 dollars per inmate. For a person to be put on death row it costs an average of 46,791 dollars. This money can help with the costs of jail. The money would also come out of tax money.

Section 5- All other laws that inflict with this are repealed.

Section 6- This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Cullen Henry, Lincoln Dunn, Jackson Weaver
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**AN ACT TO CHANGE THE CURRENT GRADING SCALE FROM A 7 POINT
GRADING SCALE TO A 10 POINT GRADING SCALE**

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government

Section I: Terms in this act are defined as follow:

Grading System- The system in which a student's grade is averaged out.

Nonphysical Item- an item that does not have a physical shape

Weighting - The letter that attaches a number grade.

10 Point Grading Scale- A grading scale that follows the following guidelines:

A: 90 - 100

B: 80 - 89

C: 70 - 79

D: 60 - 69

F: Below 60

7 Point Grading Scale- A grading scale that follows the following guidelines:

A: 93 - 100

B: 85 - 92

C: 84 - 78

D: 77 - 70

F: Below 70

Section II: This act will ensure that all students in the state of Tennessee in grades 3 through 12 will have the 10 point grading system.

Section III: Individual schools would decide the weighting of assignments.

Section IV: This bill will not require additional funding from the Tennessee Department of Education, as it is in relation to a nonphysical item.

Section V: Any and all laws or partial laws conflicting with this bill will hereby be repealed.

Section VI: This bill shall take effect as of the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year for grades 3-12 in the state of Tennessee.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Piper Ryan, Shanina Dong
School: Baylor School**

AN ACT TO RAISE TEACHER SALARIES IN TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1 Section I: Terms in this act are defined as follows:

2 Salary: a fixed payment awarded to someone as compensation for accomplished
3 work. Bachelor's Degree: a degree given to a student by a college or university
4 usually after four years of study.

5 Master's Degree: a degree given to a student by a college or university usually
6 after one or two years of additional study following a bachelor's degree.

7 Teacher: one who teaches; one whose occupation is to instruct, excluding school
8 psychologists and substitute teachers.

9 School Psychologist: uniquely qualified members of school exams that support
10 students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach.

11 Substitute teacher: a teacher who teaches a class when the usual teacher is not
12 available.

13
14 Section II: This act requires that teachers' yearly salaries are raised by
15 approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 from their current minimum salaries.
16 Minimum teacher salaries will be raised ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000
17 dollars, varying to accommodate staggering living costs across the state. In
18 counties with average living costs of around \$50,000, salaries will be raised from
19 \$36,000 to \$57,692 (of which there are 84). In counties with average living
20 costs of around \$60,000, salaries will be raised from \$36,000 to \$67,692 (of
21 which there are 11).

22
23 Section III: For every district that is found in violation of this law, the
24 superintendent will be fired and replaced.

25
26 Section IV: When enacted, this bill will cost the state around \$3,500,000,000.
27 Which is only an increase of around \$1,000,000. Money will be funded by the
28 Tennessee Department of Education.

29
30 Section V: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

31
32 Section VI: This law will take effect August, 2022.



68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE



Sponsors: Beaux Smith, Shelby Gullett
School: Dyersburg Middle School

An Act to Require All School Staff Get the Covid-19 Vaccine

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 1: Terms used in this act, unless context requires otherwise, shall be
4 defined as follows:

5 A) Covid-19- A highly contagious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2
6 virus

7 B) Vaccine- substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and
8 provide immunity against one or several diseases, prepared from the causative
9 agent of a disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute, treated to act as an
10 antigen without inducing the disease.

11
12 Section 2: This act will require all staff members to get a Covid-19 vaccine each
13 year if needed (we do not have information if the vaccine will be needed
14 annually)

15
16 Section 3: This law will lower the chances of teachers or students getting the
17 virus and lower chances of quarantine. Although this would be required, there
18 would be an exception for those who are or might be allergic to the vaccine.

19
20 Section 4: This vaccine would cost about \$2,500,000 for all students and
21 teachers in Tennessee and will be funded by the Tennessee youth in
22 government.

23
24 Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

25
26 Section 6: This act shall take effect May 22, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.



68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE



Sponsors: Snigdha Challa, Ashlyn Shell, Madison Wright
School: East Hamilton Middle

**AN ACT TO SWAP DISPOSABLE PLASTIC TRAYS TO SOLID REUSEABLE
TRAYS FOR LUNCH IN PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH FULL STAFF AND
WORKING DISHWASHERS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT.

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as followed:

- a) Cosmetic - done or made for the sake of an appearance
- b) Disposable - (of an article) intended to be used once, or until no longer useful, and then thrown away
- c) Hard - solid, firm, and rigid; not easily broken, bent, or pierced
- d) Middle School - a school intermediate between elementary school and high school, typically for children in grades 6, 7, and 8
- e) Plastic - a synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, PVC, nylon, etc., that can be molded into shape while soft and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form
- f) Population - all the inhabitants of a particular town, area, or country
- g) Sanitized - made clean and hygienic; disinfected
- h) Soup Kitchen - a place where free food is served to those who are homeless or destitute
- i) Tennessee Department of Education's School Nutrition Program - provides nutritious meals and snacks for students in public and private schools, as well as residential and child care institutions
- j) Trays - a flat, shallow container with a raised rim, typically used for carrying food and drink, or for holding small items.

Section 2: Once enacted, this bill will require that public middle schools in the state of Tennessee must purchase enough solid reusable plastic trays to adequately supply the population of students (6th, 7th, and 8th) that buy lunch. Schools that are not equipped with (a) a full-sized lunch staff and (b) a working dishwasher will be exempt from this as stated in Section 4. The plastic trays must be at least 10 inches long by 14 inches wide. They must be water-resistant. Cosmetic differences should not be significant factors in purchasing the trays. Trays must include at least 5 compartments built-in for food. They must be approved by the Tennessee Department of Education's School Nutrition Program.

Section 3: Before the beginning of the 2022 school year, all public middle schools with a full staff and working dishwashers will be required to purchase

36 hard plastic reusable lunch trays for cafeterias. The new lunch trays will be
37 sanitized in between usage and reused after.

38
39 Section 4: Any middle school cafeteria that lacks either the appropriate amount
40 of staff or the needed dishwasher is excluded from this bill. They can continue to
41 use disposable trays until they are adequately suited to the requirements of this
42 bill. In order to postpone switching reusable trays, the individual school must get
43 this approved by the Tennessee Department of Education.

44
45 Section 5: Any extra disposable trays that have not yet been used are to be
46 recycled, donated to local soup kitchens, or other proper means of disposal.

47
48 Section 6: This act will require an average of between \$750-\$2,000 per school
49 but will vary. Each year, schools can request additional funding if they require
50 more trays based upon the number of students enrolling that year. The funding
51 will be acquired from the Tennessee Department of Education.

52
53 Section 7: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

54
55 Section 8: This act shall take effect on August 1, 2022, the public welfare
56 requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Clare Bernheisel, Jayden Brown, Alexa MacArthur, Ava Seratt
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Amend 39-17-1309 of the Tennessee Code Annotated

Whereas there was a dramatic increase in school shootings during the previous decade, and whereas the punishment for illegally carrying firearms and other weapons on school property is insufficient in proportion to the harm and violence caused to students, faculty, and staff, therefore,

Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee Youth In Government

Section 1: Definitions

Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

- a) School Property - the properties (including lands and buildings thereon) that are leased, let or licensed to, or used by any public or private school entity
- b) Weapon - any firearm, explosive, explosive weapon, bowie knife, hawkbill knife, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, knuckles or any other weapon of like kind, not used solely for instructional or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes
- c) Class E Felony - the least serious felony in Tennessee, punishable by one to six years in prison, as well as a fine of up to \$3,000
- d) Class C Felony - a moderately serious felony in Tennessee, punishable by three to 15 years in prison, as well as fines of up to \$10,000

Section 2: Currently, the crime of illegally carrying weapons on school property in Tennessee is classified as a Class E Felony, as stated by the Tennessee Code. Taking into consideration the recent rise in school shootings and other violent crimes that have occurred on school property, this retribution is not enough. In order for a law to be effective, the disciplinary action must outweigh the motive to commit the crime, and a Class E Felony is not drastic enough to dissuade perpetrators from bringing harm to others.

Section 3: This amendment will alter the status of the crime of illegally carrying weapons on school property from a Class E Felony to a Class C Felony. Increasing the gravity of the offense will deter potential offenders from bringing harm to students, faculty, and staff.

Section 4: There will be no cost to administer the suggested changes. The increased fines, if applied, will go towards the Tennessee Budget. Any increased fees for prison upkeep will be so insignificant as to not require intervention.

Section 5: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 6: This act shall take effect on January 31, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Peyton Gordon, Colin Adams, Palmer Holden
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Restrict Abortion

1 Section 1: Abortion needs to be prevented. In order to do this we propose that
2 the patient will be 100% sure that is what they want. In order to accomplish this
3 we will make 5 sessions of therapy mandatory to get an abortion. First, after the
4 therapists evaluate the patient, they will first have to say that the patient is
5 mentally able to handle an abortion.

6
7 Section 2. Currently, every therapists are being evaluated, so when abortion
8 clinics have new patients they can make sure to recomend the patients to the
9 best possible options. Despite the fact that it might take time to evaluate all
10 these possible options, we believe it will prove to be beneficial.

11
12 Section 3. With this bill fortunately enough, this will not intervene with local
13 funds. So no additional state costs will be included. The only addition in price is
14 that normally abortion costs \$500 whereas now it would cost \$525, which is a
15 5% increase in cost, that way the therapists will be taken care of.

16
17 Section 4. On average there are 33 abortions a day. In fact the abotion year rate
18 has risen 12%. In 2018, there were 12,140 abortions.

19
20 Section 5. If enacted, this bill would decrease the number of abortions on a
21 daily. Obviously this bill is not suggesting banning abortion, but instead we are
22 just trying to lower the number of abortions. We do understand that in some
23 situations a future mother is not in a good situation to take care of a baby, so
24 that is why if the therapist and the mother both decide that abotion is a fit option
25 in this situation it is completely within their rights to do so.

26
27 Section 6. If this bill is enacted, then no other secondary financial aid plans will
28 need to be put in place.

29
30 Section 7: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

31
32 Section 8. This bill shall take effect on April 1, 2021, or the beginning of the
33 fiscal year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



SENATE COMMITTEE 2



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Olivia Wright, Gracie Golden
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**An Act To Require That All People Traveling To The State Tennessee
Receive A Covid Test**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

4 Covid 19- an infectious disease that causes respiratory illnesses and spreads
5 from person to person.

6 Comply-meet specified standards

7 Distributed- shared or spread out

8 Domestic-existing or occurring inside a particular country; not foreign or
9 international Documentation- material that provides official information or
10 evidence or that serves as a record

11 Doses- the measured quantity of medicine to be taken at one time

12 Quarantine- a restriction on the movement of people, animals, and goods that is
13 intended to prevent the spread of disease

14
15 Section 2: Anyone flying domestic into Tennessee is required to receive a Covid
16 test. The test results must come back negative before boarding the plane.
17 Anyone who has a positive Covid test must quarantine for 14 days before
18 boarding their flight.

19
20 Section 4: All test results must come back negative before boarding the plane.

21
22 Section 5: Documentation of a negative Covid test must be provided before
23 boarding your flight.

24
25 Section 6: The negative Covid-19 test result has to be taken no more than 72
26 hours before boarding the plane.

27
28 Section 7: Failure to supply accurate documentation of a negative Covid test will
29 mean you can not board your flight.

30
31 Section 8: Anyone who has received both doses of the Covid vaccine is exempt
32 from this bill. Documentation of receiving the vaccine must be presented to be
33 exempt from the bill. Those who have already had Covid still must comply with
34 the bill.

35
36 Section 9: Those who have already had Covid must still comply with this bill.
37

38 Section 10: Those who fail to comply will be fined \$500.

39

40 Section 11: The addition of this law will not cost any money for the state of
41 Tennessee. All doses of the vaccines are being distributed to the states free of
42 cost.

43

44 Section 12: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

45

46 Section 13: This act shall take effect on April 30, 2021, the public welfare
47 requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Benjamin Daniel
School: Baylor School**

AN ACT TO PREVENT THE BANNING OF BOOKS IN EDUCATIONAL BODIES

1 Section 1: All terms in this act are defined as follows:

2 A) Censorship: Any means by which free expression of speech is limited; doesn't
3 protect Hate Speech.

4 B) Hate Speech: Any form of expression through which speakers intend to vilify,
5 humiliate, or incite hatred against a group or a class of persons on the basis of
6 race, religion, skin color, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, or
7 national origin, according to the ALA (Currently undefined under law).

8 C) Pornography: That which lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific
9 value, refer to the Miller test.

10 D) Educational Body: any person, entity or organization, whether governmental,
11 government chartered, private or quasi-private (including, without limitation,
12 any accrediting body) that engages in granting or withholding Educational
13 Permits for, administers financial assistance to or for students of, provides a
14 license or authorization necessary for an institution to provide education in a
15 state or otherwise regulates or accredits schools in accordance with standards
16 relating to the performance, operation, financial conditions or academic
17 standards of such schools

18 E) Banning: When a book is either removed from circulation within a library
19 without due cause, when students are impeded access to books, or when
20 students are punished for the possession of a book.

21
22 Section 2: If enacted, this bill would follow the Supreme Court ruling of Island
23 Trees vs. Pico in 1973, and establish a small claims court in which students and
24 faculty can report instances of censorship.

25
26 Section 3: This extends to all government funded educational bodies within the
27 state, except for elementary and preschools.

28
29 Section 4: Repeat offenders will be fined, but fines will vary case to case. Fines
30 will be decided by severity of impediment, prior history of the schools, and
31 context of which the book were removed. A baseline cost of \$500 will be set.
32 This will be high enough to dissuade future cases, but not high enough to
33 completely overhaul funding.

34
35 Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

36
37 Section 7: This act will take effect at the beginning of the next school year.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Briana Doty, Isabelle Van Hoveln, Olivia Jones
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

AN ACT TO DECREASE VETERAN SUICIDE RATES

1 Section 1) Terms utilized in this act will be defined as follows:

2 Veteran: an individual that has served in the military

3 Medical: Relating to the science of medicine, the treatment of bodily injuries or
4 illnesses.

5 Psychological: Relating to one's mental and emotional state

6 Fiscal: Relating to government revenue: taxes.

7 PTSD: Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

8 Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: a psychiatric disorder that may occur in people
9 who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event (such as serving in a
10 branch of the military).

11 Healthcare Professionals: may operate within all branches of healthcare including
12 medicine, surgery, dentistry, midwifery, pharmacy, psychology, nursing, or allied
13 health professions.

14 VHA: Veterans Health Administration

15 Veterans Health Administration: The administration that covers all healthcare
16 costs for veterans.

17
18 Section 2) Currently, the VHA only covers the medical expenses of a veteran's
19 healthcare such as regular checkups with their primary care provider,
20 appointments with specialists, and treatments for illnesses and injuries. The VHA
21 however does not cover the expenses for a veteran's psychological healthcare.

22
23 Section 3) In 2017, the total number of veteran suicides in Tennessee consisted
24 of 154 people, while in 2018 the total number of veteran suicides in Tennessee
25 consisted of 181 people. Each year, the statistics continue to rise and more
26 veterans are lost due to suicide.

27
28 Section 4) Under this act, the healthcare previously provided for a veteran's
29 medical healthcare will furthermore cover their psychological healthcare. This
30 consists of any medications, therapy, or screenings.

31
32 Section 5) Veterans will be examined once they return from the place in which
33 they served to see if the veteran's mindset has changed after all they have
34 witnessed during their time. This is a requirement that will be covered by a
35 veteran's healthcare if this act is enacted. The mental health screening will cost
36 an average of \$175 per screening. They will continue to be examined until
37 healthcare professionals are definite that the patient is not suffering any mental
38 illnesses such as depression, flashbacks, anxiety, outburst, or PTSD from serving

39 in the military, or any further negative change in their mindset. Any form of
40 therapy or medications requested after the screening will also be covered by the
41 veteran's healthcare, if enacted.

42
43 Section 6) This bill will cover all mental health care finances through Tennessee
44 United Healthcare. Veterans will be enrolled in this program sponsored by
45 TENcare.

46
47 Section 7) This act will take place on July 1st, 2021, or the beginning of the fiscal
48 year.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Mary Frances Brekke, Ruth Brown, Eavie Murphy, Emily Nicastro
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Require a Life Course Credit in Public High Schools

1 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature:
2

3 Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:

4 Life Course Class - A class that teaches students skills used in finance that are
5 not learned in regular school.

6 High School - Grades 9-12. Students who are held back in class must also
7 complete the course.

8 Class Credit - The recognition for having taken a course at a school or university,
9 used as measure if enough hours have been made for graduation. Each credit
10 takes about 120 hours of classwork to achieve, or 160 45 minute classes.

11 Life Skills - Skills that include financial skills, writing a resume, time-
12 management skills, responsibility skills, self-direction skills, collaboration skills,
13 time management skills, communication skills, work ethic skills, and creativity
14 skills.

15 GPA - Grade point average. It is found by adding all grades in all classes
16 together, then dividing that by the number of classes.
17

18 Section 2:

19 This act shall require all High School Students to take a life skills course, as a
20 part of the curriculum for Tennessee Public Schools, to better prepare them for
21 life outside of the classroom. Students, grades 9-12 in public schools, shall be
22 required to take a life skills class due to the positive effects it can have on
23 student preparation for life after high school.

24 Life skills courses prove the need for teaching proficient time management skills
25 and enable students to learn numerous other skills. Students that have taken a
26 life skills course have dramatically improved upon their skills of time
27 management, responsibility, problem solving, self-direction, collaboration,
28 communication, creativity, and work ethic.
29

30 Section 3:

31 Research shows that a student GPA drastically improved because of the life skill
32 courses. The average GPA of students in time-management skills improved by
33 0.1%, responsibility increased by 0.3%, problem solving increased by 0.4%,
34 self-direction increased by 0.4%, collaboration increased by 0.3%,
35 communication skills increased by 0.3%, creativity increased 0.4%, and work
36 ethic increased by 0.3%.

37 The state of Tennessee can look to Japan as a model, as Japan has life skill
38 courses integrated in their academic curriculum. 95% of Japanese students

graduate high school, while only 89.7% of Tennesseans graduate high school. Research suggests that a mandatory life skills course in the state of Tennessee would drastically increase high school graduation rates and student achievement.

Section 4:

A mandatory Life Skills Course would include financial skills, writing a resume, time-management skills, responsibility skills, self-direction skills, collaboration skills, communication skills, work ethic skills, and creativity skills. The funding for teachers and curriculum materials would be provided by state and local education systems. All Public School Districts in the state of Tennessee will be responsible for adding the mandatory Life Skills Course to their curriculum. Public School Districts that do not fulfill this educational requirement will not receive state funding to their education systems.

Section 5: This act shall go into effect at the start of the 2021-2022 school year for all school districts.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Janvi Shah, Gifty Thomas
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS FOR
PREVALENT DISEASES SUCH AS COVID-19 AND INFLUENZA THROUGH
THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as followed:

a: Administering- managing and supervising.

b: Ailments- an illness, typically a minor one.

c: Chicken Pox- a highly contagious viral infection causing an itchy, blister-like rash on the skin

d: Cold Chain Chamber- they are used to simulate temperatures that products and packaging may encounter during distribution.

e: COVID-19- a respiratory disease that has spiked a global pandemic

f: Faculty- a group of university departments concerned with a major division of knowledge.

g: Hepatitis A- a disease characterized by inflammation of the liver.

h: Hepatitis B- a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus that's easily preventable by a vaccine.

i: Immunization- the action of making a person or animal immune to infection, typically by inoculation.

j: Influenza- a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory passages causing fever, severe aching, and catarrh, and often occurring in epidemics.

k: Measles- an infectious viral disease causing fever and a red rash on the skin, typically occurring in childhood.

l: Minor- younger than 18 years of age

m: Polio- polio, or poliomyelitis, is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the poliovirus

n: Rubella- a contagious viral disease, with symptoms like mild measles. It can cause fetal malformation if contracted in early pregnancy.

o: Signed Declaration- an official announcement or statement signed by the legal guardian of a minor.

p: State Board of Medicine- state medical boards are the agencies that license medical doctors, investigate complaints, discipline physicians who violate the medical practice act, and refer physicians for evaluation and rehabilitation when

q: Tetanus- a bacterial disease marked by rigidity and spasms of the voluntary muscles

Section 2: When enacted all schools will be required to offer students and staff medical vaccinations to help combat diseases such as Influenza, COVID-19, Polio, Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Rubella, Chicken Pox, Measles, etc. All schools must advise students and instructors to be vaccinated by the in-school program to make the vaccinating process more efficient.

Section 3: Medical volunteers such as school nurses will be vaccinating students and faculty and staff. Having more than just the school nurse will make the process of vaccinating students more efficient and productive.

Section 4: Exemptions include:

(1) Any minor whose parent or guardian has submitted a certificate signed by a physician approved by the State Board of Medicine to school officials claiming that the child's medical condition is such that all or any of the immunizations needed will threaten the child's life or health shall be exempted from the requirements of this Chapter.

(2) Any minor whose parent or guardian has sent a signed declaration on religious or other grounds to school officials stating their objections shall be exempted from the requirements of this chapter.

Section 5: This bill will accommodate students who are unable to be vaccinated due to either financial or personal reasons. The school will provide the vaccine which will assist the needs of students and faculty. Students are not obligated to take the vaccines and some exemptions have been put in place for students with health conditions and students who do not want to be vaccinated.

Section 6: The vaccines will be arranged in a cold-chain room, this is a specialized room meant explicitly for accommodating vaccines. For example, the COVID-19 vaccine must be stored in a cold-chain room, or else the vaccine will not be effective in keeping you immune to the virus.

Section 7: Each time a student gets vaccinated the medical volunteer that vaccinates them will sign on their student record that they have been vaccinated for that certain ailment. The student record is only seen by the medical volunteers, the pediatric clinic one attends, and the school officials.

Section 8: The process of distributing the vaccines is a quick and straightforward two-step process. The health department will begin by administering the vaccine throughout the schools in TN and then we will proceed to deliver the vaccines to the students and faculty of the school. This effective and efficient process will make it easier for schools to track and supervise who has taken school vaccinations and who has not.

Section 9: A waiver is required to be signed by the legal parents or guardians of the minor(s) that will be vaccinated by the school. In this form, you are informed that the school and vaccine provider is not liable or accountable for any damage done to the minor by the vaccine.

Section 10: If the school is not the appropriate size to fit a cold-chain chamber, a bus will go to the local clinic in order to vaccinate all of the students and the faculty would drive themselves. Being vaccinated at the local government will cost no money to parents and faculty, and would be funded through the Tennessee Health Department.

Section 11: The addition of this course will cost \$63,000,00 and will be funded through the TN School Board and the TN Health Department.

Section 12: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 13: This act shall take effect on June 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Sarah Martinez, Grady Forsythe
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

**An Act to Provide Tennessee Schools K-12 with funds for COVID-19
Screening Tests**

Whereas, COVID-19 has negatively impacted students learning in school in Tennessee because many students are still learning remotely, and whereas, studies show that the disease doesn't spread very much in schools if there are safety measures in place such as masks and social distancing and that testing for COVID-19 can create a safer environment for students and teachers, therefore

Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

- a) coronavirus: A world-wide issue starting as of late 2019 and continuing in the year 2020-2021.
- b) Spit Test: A working test of coronavirus that requires the use of saliva.
- c) teachers: A person who educates his or her students.
- d) students: A person who is learning and studying at a school or college.

Section 2: This act will enable schools to have the choice to be provided with money generously funded by the state education budget. This should take place between age groups of K-12. Students that are just arriving at a new school should also be tested for coronavirus and other illnesses before entering the facility. These tests should be taken frequently. Every 2 weeks a random selection of students and faculty should be tested for COVID-19.

Section 3: The purpose of this Act is to reduce the spread of coronavirus. COVID-19 may decrease wherever this law takes place as students and teachers may have an illness but not be aware of it. These cases may be asymptomatic. Most cases of coronavirus in students occur between ages of 5-18. Many other illnesses take place at school so this could also lower the spread of illnesses such as influenza, another major disease. This act may also help reduce the use of online learning for students.

Section 4: COVID-19 is a major disease that has caused many students to be enrolled into online learning. It has caused teachers to retire either due to medical reasons and/or helping their children with schoolwork. This act will be able to decrease the amount of cases in schools. Students and faculty will be in a safer environment. This act will be optional for schools in the state of Tennessee.

37 Section 5: The amount of money needed would depend on the area. Research
38 shows that an estimated price would be about \$10,000 for each testing machine
39 and materials a school needs. The money needed will either be provided by the
40 state or by the school's educational budget. This is a reasonable price because all
41 schools should be protected against this world-wide disease. A small price to pay
42 for the wellness of Tennesseans. This price may change as the urgency of this
43 declines.

44
45 Section 6: All laws of parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.

46
47 Section 7: This act shall take effect May, 5th, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Bindi Patel, Aoife Davis
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

**An act to allow at least 12 months (1 year) of maternity leave for each
parent/legal guardian**

Section 1) BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 2) Terms in acts will be defined as follows:

Maternity leave- a period of absence from work granted to a mother before and after the birth of her child

Paternity leave- a period of absence from work granted to a father after or shortly before the birth of his child

Market - The companies and their board of directors. Also could mean the economic market and/or the stock market.

Section 3) Each parent/legal guardian will have access to 8 months of paid leave and 4 months of unpaid leave. Each parent/legal guardian would have the opportunity to leave the maternity/paternity leave at each of the 2-month increments. If they left for 12 months, they would lose that amount of paid/unpaid leave.

Section 4) The parents/legal guardian will receive 80% of their paycheck during the paid leave. The parents/legal guardians will receive 80% of their paycheck including overtime and raises. That money would not be touched by taxes. Each parent/legal guardians would still be able to have some of their 80% put into a retirement account
This amount of leave will be lost if both parents/legal guardians come back and do not use the leave.

Section 6) Fiscal Arrangement: The government will develop a plan such as the one written below for the fiscal arrangement. Companies will not be allowed to pull out loans for their financial means.

Section 7) Problems: Companies could go bankrupt from this. Companies could lose a significant amount of revenue, profit, and workforce

Section 8) Companies must invest in maternity/paternity insurance, even if their employees are not likely to have kids. The government would work with commercial insurance companies to pool the risk to the company - providing payouts that offset the cost of the mother/guardians and the cost to the company for the lack of labor. The government will pay for 30% of the

37 guardian's 80% paycheck. The companies will pay for the other 50% or agreed-
38 upon percentage. This money will be from the insurance companies' payout.
39
40 Section 9) Insurance companies may not want to agree to these terms, even
41 though they receive more liquidated capital.
42
43 Section 10) This act will take into effect on November 1, 2021.
44
45 Section 11) This system must be completely prepared and usable by January 1,
46 2022



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



Sponsors: Madeleine Crighton, Hannah Lassiter, Kacy Kramer, Livia Bennett
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School

**AN ACT TO DECREASE STUDENT DEBT AND INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF
FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROVIDED TO HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms used in this act, unless the context requires otherwise, shall be defined as follows:

Financial Literacy: refers to an individual's ability to understand, manage and plan their personal finances.

Interest: money paid regularly at a particular rate for the use of money lent, or for delaying the repayment of a debt.

Debt: owing money.

High School Credit: Points earned from classes needed in order to earn a high school diploma.

Diploma: A certificate needed to graduate high school; earned by a specific number of credits received

Federal Reserves: the central banking system of the United States of America.

Loan Default Rate: the percentage of loans that a lender has written off as unpaid, after a prolonged period of missing payments.

Non-Profit Organization: A business that is created for a collective benefit of a public or social cause.

Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to lower the student debt rate of Tennessee, by increasing the amount of time dedicated to financial courses required for high school students to graduate. A study conducted in 2011 came to the conclusion that out of 1,132 teenagers, 42% stated they wished their parents talked more about finances. Only 32% of the teens in the study said they understood how credit card interest and fees work.

Section 3: Only 17 states of the United States require financial education for high school students to graduate, and confirms that Tennessee is one of those states. Tennessee law mandates that high school students must take a semester of financial education classes in order to receive their high school diploma. This course has been required since the year of 2013.

Section 4: In 2018, the average student debt was between 26 and 30 thousand dollars. Another study conducted by the Federal Reserves says that 40% of American households can not withstand an emergency of 400 dollars or more.

37 Section 5: The student debt of Tennessee has a steady progression of 7.38% a
38 year. A study found that Tennessee's student loan default rate is the 20th
39 highest in the country. This high student debt rate is accredited to students not
40 learning how to manage their money effectively. Students aren't aware of how to
41 not gather debt after the course is over. This causes students leaving high school
42 to begin to accumulate debt. Since the debt rates of students are steadily
43 increasing, it proves that the financial and economic class they took in high
44 school were not effective or long enough.

45
46 Section 6: Studies have shown that students benefit from in depth teacher
47 instruction, a strong base of factual knowledge, and the content of the class to
48 be well organized. In order for this to occur successfully students need to
49 partake in a class that takes place for a longer period of time.

50
51 Section 7: If enacted, this bill will revise the law enacted in 2013 by the
52 Tennessee Board of Education and the Tennessee Government. This bill would
53 increase the length of the finance and economic courses, and require a full
54 credit, or two semesters of financial classes in this field to be required for
55 students to receive a high school diploma.

56
57 Section 8: If necessary for funding to be provided to the schools of Tennessee to
58 pay for the extended financial literacy class, the required money could be taken
59 from nonprofit organizations such as Jump\$tart Coalition and Next Gen Personal
60 Finance. Money can also be taken from Federal Reserve banks, credit unions and
61 investment companies. This would make it so that the state budget for education
62 of Tennessee wouldn't be required to pay for these courses.

63
64 Section 9: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

65
66 Section 10: This bill shall take effect at the beginning of the following school year
67 after this bill gets passed.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Taniyah McLin, Allyssa Wilson
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Require Vegan and Lactose Intolerant School Meals

1 Whereas 65% of the population is lactose intolerant and whereas 9.7 million
2 people are vegan for health or moral reasons, and schools should provide options
3 for these students with their meals in order for these students to eat and be
4 healthy, therefore

5
6 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government

7
8 Section 1) Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

9 Lactose Intolerant- a common digestive problem where the body is unable to
10 digest lactose, a type of sugar mainly found in milk and dairy products

11 Vegan- a person who does not eat any food derived from animals and who
12 typically does not use other animal products.

13 Regulations- a rule or directive made by an authority

14
15 Section 2) This act will require schools to have vegan and lactose-free options at
16 meals such as breakfast and lunch.

17
18 Section 3) If a school is not following the vegan and lactose intolerant school
19 meal regulations they will be fined. On the first offense, the school will be fined
20 \$500, on the second offense, the fine will raise to \$1,200, on the third offense
21 the fine will be \$2,000, on the fourth offense the fine will be \$2,500. On the 5th
22 offense, the fine will be raised by \$5,000 and will be raised by \$500 for every
23 offense to follow.

24
25 Section 4) This bill will not cost much more than the average cost of milk and
26 food in schools due to the cost of most vegan foods to be lower than the food the
27 school already buys and cartoned lactose-free milk only being a few cents more
28 than the milk the school already buys, can be replaced by water or juice which
29 is less expensive by the carton or bottle.

30
31 Section 5) All laws or parts of this law in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

32
33 Section 6) This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022, the public welfare
34 requiring it.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT



SENATE COMMITTEE 3



68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE



Sponsors: Aayush Patel, Seetharama Rangareddygar, Roman Luker, Luke Farris
School: East Hamilton Middle

**AN ACT TO REQUIRE CYBERSECURITY MEASURES TO PREVENT DATA
BREACHES**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms used in this act are defined as follows:

a)Anti-virus software- A computer program used to prevent, detect, and remove malware

b)Cybersecurity- The state of being protected against the criminal or unauthorized use of electronic data, or the measures are taken to achieve this

c)Data- a piece of information

d)Data Breach- The release of secure or private/confidential information to an untrusted environment

e)Data Encryption- A security method in which plain text data is encoded into ciphertext, which can only be accessed by a person with the correct encryption key

f)Personally Identifiable Information- Data that can indirectly or directly identify individuals

g)Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security- A law enforcement agency that secures and protects the people of Tennessee

Section 2: Companies carrying users' personally identifiable information are required to ensure that their staff is well-informed about cybersecurity.

Section 3: Companies carrying users' personally identifiable information must have antivirus/firewall software on their devices that carry this data.

Section 4: Companies carrying users' personally identifiable information must use a private and secure network connection.

Section 5: Companies must store users' data in encrypted form.

Section 6: There will be biannual inspections for companies that carry users' data. All requirements will be checked either verbally through questioning employees or through checking their devices.

Section 7: Failure to comply with any of these regulations will result in a fine determined by the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security and possible training requirements for employees.

38 Section 8: If users' unencrypted data is breached, companies must comply with
39 previous data breach laws in TN.
40
41 Section 9: The Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security is
42 responsible for enforcing this law.
43
44 Section 10: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby
45 repealed.
46
47 Section 11: This act shall take effect within 60 days of becoming a law, giving
48 companies time to take any required cybersecurity measures.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Maren Buckley, Lillian Morton, Layla Pedroza
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Provide Better Funding for Tennessee's Public Schools

1 Definitions

2 Funding- money provided, especially by an outside organization for a specific
3 purpose.

4 Public school- a school that serves the public and is funded by the state.

5
6 Section 1- Be it enacted by the Tennessee Youth in Government;
7 This bill intends to better finance public schools-related arts in-school sessions.
8 We intend to put forth 100,000 dollars to public schools yearly to provide better
9 funds, staffing, and supplies. The bill only will be giving 100,000 dollars yearly to
10 all schools and not to an individual level, increasing the yearly payment. This bill
11 is set to fund related arts primarily, but will be allowed to be put forth for other
12 school-related purposes. While this bill can include P.E, arts, and Theatrical
13 classes, it does not include anything that not all students can participate in. This
14 would leave out audition-based dramas, outside school sports, and other outside
15 school activities. This will be taken from Tennessee's family's income tax, which
16 is taxation based on your income allowing the least possible financial impact to
17 our state families.

18
19 Section 2- The money will be used to better public schools for lower-income
20 areas which lack good in-school-related arts activities. The government will pay
21 roughly 100,000 yearly.

22
23 Section 3- All laws in conflict with this will be repealed.

24
25 Section 4- This act shall take effect June 2022, the public welfare requiring it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Cole Blevins, Jai Gupta, Abraham Alghussein
School: East Hamilton Middle**

**AN ACT TO INCREASE THE TENNESSEE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$10.00 AND
APPLY THE INDEX OF INFLATION TO THE MINIMUM WAGE**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:

- a) Annual Gross Volume: The total receipts of sales made or business done of an enterprise over a 12-month period.
- b) Basket of Goods and Services: A consumer's products whose price is measured on an annual basis.
- c) CPI-U: A measurement of the changes in the price of a basket of goods and services purchased by urban consumers.
- d) Enterprise: A business that has an annual gross volume of sales or profit of at least \$500,000.
- e) Index to Inflation: The tracking of price changes from one time to another on the same good or service.
- f) Minimum Wage: The lowest wage an enterprise may pay its employees per hour.
- g) T.A.N.F: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- h) Salary: The annual income of someone who is employed.
- i) S.N.A.P: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Section 2: The minimum wage in Tennessee will be raised to \$10.00 in 4 phases over 4 years. Each year, the minimum wage will increase by \$0.75 and the last phase will be to increase it by \$0.50. After \$10.00 is reached, there will be the additional criteria of the minimum wage being rounded to the nearest \$0.10. The minimum wage will, in future years, increase annually based on the CPI-U inflation rate. If the federal minimum wage increases, the inflation index will continue to apply.

Section 3: The increase in minimum wage will cost Tennessee's enterprise owners an additional \$0.75 an hour for each of their employees, for the next 3 years, and lastly \$0.50 for the fourth year. This will not directly charge the state government any costs with the implementation of this bill. The implementation of the bill might do the opposite, allowing the government to possibly cut back funding for certain social programs for those in poverty, such as T.A.N.F. and S.N.A.P.

Section 4: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 5: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, to the public welfare.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Noah Carbonari, Finn Kallberg, Austin Oakes, John Cox
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School**

An Act to Reduce Amount of Abortions in Tennessee

1 (Section 1) Women aren't allowed to get an abortion if there is no risk to their
2 health.

3
4 (Section 2) Babies feel pain at 10 weeks, because of this there is no longer an
5 option to get an abortion after 14 weeks.

6
7 (Section 3) The parent of the minor must give consent before there is an option
8 for abortion.

9
10 (Section 4) The women trying to get an abortion must go to sate-counseling
11 before there is an option for abortion.

12
13 (Section 5) Act will go into effect January 1, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Hailey Holloway, Allie Kelley, Carson Sargent
School: Heritage Middle School**

**An Act to Require Sufficient Education of Mental Health for Teachers and
Staff in Tennessee Public School System**

1 Be It Enacted By the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

2
3 Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:

4 Mental health training-

5 a) training, either in person or virtual, presented by professionals in mental
6 health.

7 b) school staff that specialize in mental health - people employed by tennessee
8 state schools with a masters level degree in mental health.

9 c) virtual mental health training- any training that takes place on your technology

10 d) in person mental health training-face face training about mental health

11 e) childhood mental health course - a college course that is focused on the
12 mental health of a child.

13
14 Section 2: Every teacher in the state of Tennessee will have three hours of
15 training for mental health each year. The mental health training will be in
16 addition to current professional development hours.

17
18 Section 3: One hour of the mental health training will be in person, then the
19 other two hours of the mental health training can be virtual or in person.

20
21 Section 4: These mental health training can be provided by school staff that
22 specialize in mental health.

23
24 Section 5: The virtual mental health training must be approved by the Tennessee
25 board of educator licensure.

26
27 Section 6: Every licensed teacher in the state of Tennessee must receive three
28 hours credit in childhood mental health courses in college.

29
30 Section 7: Any teacher who graduated before 2022 will not have to take the
31 mental health college course.

32
33 Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

34
35 Section 9: This act shall take effect March 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring
36 it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



Sponsors: Sydney Kallberg, Ethan Armentor, Cassidy Crow
School: Hillsboro Elementary and Middle School

An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage

1 Section 1- Terms defined:

2 A- minimum wage- A minimum wage is the lowest remuneration that employers
3 can legally pay their employees; the price floor below which employees may not
4 sell their labor.

5 B- federal law- Federal law is the body of law created by the federal government
6 of a country.

7
8 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

9 A minimum wage is the lowest wage per hour that a worker may be paid, as
10 mandated by federal law. It is a legally mandated price floor on hourly wages,
11 below which non-exempt workers may not be offered or accept a job. The
12 amount of people in Tennessee is six million people and with the minimum wage
13 been \$7.25 it has affected many lives with also putting 13.9% of them in
14 poverty.

15
16 Section 2- This bill wants to raise the minimum wage in Tennessee because the
17 minimum wage pay is too low to live off of weekly. This bill will make living
18 easier and most of the money spent will go back into the economy and will make
19 many civilian lives much easier.

20
21 Section 3- This bill would need \$54 billion dollars to support this act to raise the
22 minimum wage , This will be very doable because the US just generated 3 trillion
23 dollars and most of this money will make our country even more wealthy it
24 already is.

25
26 Section 4- All other laws in conflict with this law are repealed.

27
28 Section 5- This law will take effect on May 24th, 2022
29



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Peyton Bohannon, Avery Hinson, Meredith Zamzow, Murphy Mae Morgan
School: Dyersburg Middle School**

An Act to Make Abortion in Tennessee Illegal

1 Whereas, Abortion is killing thousands of unborn Tennesseans, we hope to create
2 an act that will make abortion illegal in Tennessee. Abortion is murder and it isn't
3 okay that people are dying before they are even given a chance at life, therefore
4

5 Be it enacted by the 2021 Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
6

7 Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

- 8 a) Abortion: the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often
9 performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy.
10 b) Pregnancy: the term used to describe the period in which a fetus develops
11 inside a woman's womb.
12 c) Murder: the unlawful killing of one human being by another human.
13 d) Women: an adult female human being.
14 e) Child: a young human being below the age of puberty or below the legal age
15 of majority.
16 f) Unborn Child: child that has not yet been born and is still inside its mother's
17 womb.
18 g) Illegal: contrary to or forbidden by law, especially criminal law.
19

20 Section 2: This Act shall ensure safety of many unborn children and a deserving
21 life not taken away from them, all people deserve a chance to live. In 2014 ,
22 926,190 abortion deaths were preformed. In 2018 11.9% of woman's pregnancy
23 ended in abortion. In 2014 abortion rates, about one in four (24%) women will
24 have an abortion by age 45. Some women are choosing to abort because they do
25 not have the support necessary, but abortion isn't the answer to the problem.
26 Abortion is a serious issue in Tennessee and around the world but our act can
27 help.
28

29 Section 3: The purpose of this act is to save many deserving lives in Tennessee
30 and stop countless murders. Abortion has taken too many lives and this needs to
31 change. Alabama has put a total ban on abortion at any stage of human
32 pregnancy. Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Ohio, have made any
33 form of abortion illegal as soon as a heartbeat is detected. Tennessee needs to
34 join the fight against abortion. Abortion is manslaughter and that is not morally
35 correct. We want to help save thousands of lives and make abortion illegal in
36 Tennessee.
37

38 Section 4: The first offense penalty for violating this law is five years
39 imprisonment and if repeated five more years will be added every time. With the
40 exception of if the mother and child are expected to die during labor. Killing your
41 child -without a valid reason- is murder and we intend to do something about it.
42
43 Section 5: This act will not require any financial support.
44
45 Section 6: All laws of parts of laws in conflict with this law are hereby repealed.
46
47 Section 7: This act shall take effect April 15, 2021, the public welfare requiring
48 it.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Alisha Chandra, Julia Gardner, Luciana Hemphill
School: Baylor School**

**AN ACT TO REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM
TRANSFERS IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

Section 1: The terms in this act shall be defined as follows:

A. Federal Firearms License(FFL): A permit issued to any persons, corporations, partnerships, or other legally established businesses who manufacture or deal in firearms, allowing them to do so legally.

B. Federal Buyback Program: A government-instituted program in which civilians can sell their unwanted firearms to the government, usually law enforcement, without risk of prosecution.

Licensed Firearm Dealer: Any person appropriately licensed by the federal government

C. Private Transfer: The selling or in any other way transferring possession of a firearm between two parties without going through an official, licensed dealer, such as a gun show.

D. Firearm: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which has the power to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

E. Class E Felony: An act punishable by 1-6 years in prison and a fine not to exceed 5,000

F. Class A Misdemeanor: Action punishable by up to 11 months, 12 days in prison and a fine not over 2,500:

Section 2: This act shall extend all existing federal background check requirements (which are currently required in transactions between official, FFL licensed dealers and other parties,) to private transfers of firearms in the state of Tennessee.

Section 3: When such private transfers occur, background checks will be completed by a licensed firearm dealer, and should the scan come back successful, proof will be given to both the owner and the firearm dealer. The party completing the background check is also responsible for ensuring that the buyer is mentally fit, of age, and not intoxicated. The seller shall be responsible for keeping a record accessible to law enforcement of all private firearms they process, as well as obtaining approval from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the owner is required to produce proof as required by law enforcement.

Section 4: Private transfers may be exempt from this law in the case that they are being made to historical societies or museums, or government sponsored programs such as a buyback outreach, transfer between immediate family

members are also exempt. Additionally, transfers completed before this bill has gone into effect shall also be exempt.

Section 5: In compensation for their services, the licensed dealer processing the transfer may impose a fee, if they see fit, not to exceed 50 dollars.

Section 6: Private transfers not first processed by a licensed dealer which are not subject to any of the exceptions listed are punishable with a Class A Misdemeanor, as well as probation of the right to possess firearms upon conviction date. Should a repeat offense occur, the penalty can increase to a Class E Felony as well as a permanent revocation of the right to possess firearms.

Section 7: Any and all legislation in conflict with this bill shall hereby be revoked.

Section 8: This bill shall go into effect on November 1st, 2022.



**68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
SENATE**



**Sponsors: Hanna Yang, Charlotte Flowers
School: Signal Mountain Middle School**

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE ACTIONS OF PUPPY MILLS

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2
3 Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as the following
4 Puppy mills-dog-breeding operations that put profit above the welfare of dogs
5 Hygiene-conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health
6 Over breeding- the process of breeding excessively
7

8 Section 2: There shall be a limit regarding the number of permitted breeding
9 puppy mills, which shall be determined and officiated by individual counties in
10 the state of Tennessee, depending on the size and resources of the facility,
11 among other limitations including but not limited to
12 The number of dogs permitted in each puppy mill, determined by the individual
13 county after determining the resources and the space available at each mill
14

15 Section 3: There shall be monthly inspections from the Humane Educational
16 Society to guarantee the hygiene and health of the facility and to verify that the
17 facility's breeding limit is being followed.
18

19 Section 4: The standards of hygiene and health for puppy mills shall be the
20 following:
21 The dog's living area must be fairly sterile
22 Fairly will be determined by each county in accordance to the animal regulations
23 in existence
24 All animals must be properly groomed and washed using products deemed
25 appropriate for animal use
26 Dogs must be fed appropriately based on age, weight, and breed.
27 Both indoor and outdoor areas must be available for every dog, corresponding to
28 the size, weight, and temperament of each dog.
29 Each facility must be up to the building codes in each county.
30

31 Section 5: When an individual offends this law, these shall be the following
32 consequences, which may be flexible in order to be in accordance with the
33 animal regulations laws enforced in each county:
34 First offense- the facility shall be put out of use for one year, and the offender
35 will be required a base fine of 5,000 dollars, and an additional fee determined by
36 the county and the Human Educational Society based on the severity of the
37 crime.

38 Second offense- the facility shall be shut down permanently, and all funds
39 acquired from the mill will be donated to the Humane Educational Society.
40

41 Section 6: Once the facility is closed, all the creatures in the puppy mill shall be
42 transferred to local shelters based on resources available in each location. Young
43 puppies under the age of 7 weeks must be kept together with their birth mother.
44

45 Section 7: The funding of relocating the canines from the shut down facility will
46 be included in the fee that the offender has paid.
47

48 Section 8: This law should be prioritized over all other laws regarding this matter
49

50 Section 9: This bill will go into effect on July 1st, 2021
51