



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



**Sponsors: Grace Abram, Ivan Jimenez, Dasia Remigailo  
School: Collegiate**

**An Act to Ban the Usage of Execution by Electrocutation in Tennessee**

1 Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

2

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

4 a.) Electric Chair - A method of prisoner execution consisting of a chair and  
5 electrodes attached to the head and leg.

6

7 Section 2: If enacted, it would make the electric chair banned as a method of  
8 execution in the state of Tennessee. This bill will affect TN prisons which  
9 perform executions, prisoners on death row, and the families of victims  
10 waiting for executions.

11

12 Section 3: In recent years the Chemicals necessary to perform lethal  
13 injection have become difficult to procure. The chemicals Are made in Europe  
14 in capital punishment is banned in Europe. Therefore the companies that  
15 make the drugs will no longer sell them in the US. Tennessee has executed  
16 five prisoners by electrocution since November 1st 2018. Tennessee is one  
17 of five southern states in the US that still allows this form of execution.  
18 Electrocutation has been banned in the other 45 states, at the Federal level,  
19 and in every other country in the world. Death by electrocution is considered  
20 a war crime according to the Geneva Convention.

21

22 The electric chair is an inhumane method of execution. There are reports of  
23 victims being pried off of the chair after execution and their skin falling off.  
24 The use of an electric chair is the very definition of cruel and unusual  
25 punishment. As a state, we are in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Let's  
26 change this and bring our state into the 21st century.

27

28 Section 4: The cost of this bill to the state of Tennessee will be nothing.

29

30 Other forms of execution will take the place of the Electric Chair; however, these  
31 forms of execution are already funded by the State Department of Corrections.

32

33 Section 5: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

34

35 Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately upon passage, the public  
36 welfare requiring it.



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



**BLUE SENATE**

**Sponsors: Naavya Dangi, Katelyn Green, Sonia Kripalani, Divya Shrivastava  
School: Woodland Middle School**

**AN ACT TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN TENNESSEE**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2

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

4

4 Minimum Wage - the lowest wage permitted by law or by a special  
5 agreement

6

6 Inflation - a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of  
7 money

8

8 SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; provides nutrition  
9 benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can  
10 purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency

11

12 Section II: Currently, the minimum wage in Tennessee is seven dollars and  
13 twenty-five cents per hour, which is the federal minimum wage. Tennessee is  
14 one of twenty-two states that uses the federal minimum wage, which has  
15 remained the same for over a decade. One dollar in Tennessee is worth less  
16 than one dollar in many other states, several of which have a minimum wage  
17 higher than Tennessee. Raising the minimum wage has, in most cases, not  
18 affected inflation. In fact, the federal minimum wage of the United States has  
19 not kept up with the nation's inflation rate. Taking inflation into account, the  
20 minimum wage in the United States is worth seventeen percent less than it  
21 was ten years ago. If someone making seven dollars and twenty-five cents  
22 an hour worked for forty hours a week, they would earn a weekly wage of  
23 only two-hundred and ninety dollars. This is not enough to support a healthy  
24 lifestyle.

25

26 Section III: This act will raise the Tennessee minimum wage to ten dollars  
27 gradually over the course of five years, as to not cause any major impact to  
28 the economy. The minimum wage will raise twenty five cents to seven dollars  
29 and fifty cents per hour in 2022, and will increase by fifty cents each year  
30 until 2027 (eight dollars in 2023, eight dollars and fifty cents in 2024, nine  
31 dollars in 2025, nine dollars and fifty cents in 2026, and ten dollars in 2027).

32

33 Section IV: Increasing the minimum wage would raise the income of about  
34 560,000 workers in Tennessee. It will also lower the amount the state spends  
35 on social safety net programs such as SNAP and reduce economic inequality,  
36 which will lead to economic growth. Other states that have raised their

37 minimum wage in the past years have seen great benefits, and Tennessee  
38 will likely see similar outcomes.

39  
40 Section V: This act has no fiscal impact.

41  
42 Section VI: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby  
43 repealed.

44  
45 Section VII: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, on which the  
46 minimum wage will be raised to seven dollars and fifty cents. The minimum  
47 wage will continue to increase by fifty cents each year on the first of January  
48 until 2027, in which the minimum wage will reach ten dollars per hour.



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



**BLUE SENATE**

---

**Sponsors: Kaushik Sathiyandrakumar, Aditya Pradeep, Jack Herrmann, Azariah Cherukara**  
**School: Woodland Middle School**

**An Act to Regulate and Purify Water in Drinking Sources in Tennessee**

1 Be it enacted by the 2021 YMCA Youth in Government

2

3 Section I: Terms used in this act shall be defined as followed:

4 Pollutant - a substance that pollutes something, especially water or the  
5 atmosphere.

6 Contamination - the action or state of making or being made impure by  
7 polluting or poisoning.

8

9 Section II: The freshwater sources of Tennessee are in a dire state.

10 Tennessee's water quality is extremely contaminated and affects almost all  
11 regions of the state. The Tennessee Department of Environment and  
12 Conservation (TDEC) has estimated that about 30 percent of the state's  
13 streams are of such poor water quality that they cannot support a healthy  
14 population of fish and other aquatic wildlife, and almost 40 percent are not fit  
15 for human recreation. A leading cause of water pollution in the Tennessee  
16 River is stormwater runoff that collects and delivers substances such as  
17 pesticides and fertilizers into the river, therefore, one step in reducing  
18 pollution in the Tennessee River is minimizing and carefully managing  
19 chemical and pesticide use for our lawn care. Ten harmful contaminants were  
20 found in the water supplies in 30 Tennessee towns or water utilities,  
21 according to a report released by the Environmental Working Group, or EWG,  
22 an independent nonprofit organization. The Tennessee River is a great source  
23 of water for its residents. However, according to ewg.com, the Tennessee  
24 River is the fourth dirtiest river in the United States. In addition, 5.1 million  
25 residents rely on the Tennessee River as their water source. Currently, the  
26 Cumberland River is the city's drinking water source. However, an additional  
27 threat of sewage is applied to the Cumberland River. According to News  
28 Channel 5, there have been 498 total overflow violations - releasing an  
29 estimated 83 million+ gallons of sewage into the river.

30

31 Section III: We believe the best course of action is to create reservoirs  
32 around Tennessee that will not only tackle the problem of water  
33 contamination but will also boost our economy and lower the unemployment  
34 rate by creating new jobs for residents. Three reservoirs will be implemented

35 and built around the state. The reservoirs will test, purify, and supply pure,  
36 clean water. The reservoirs will purify water through natural purification  
37 through sedimentation of particles, photolysis, and substance degradation.  
38 Therefore, not only will the reservoirs make the water drinkable for humans,  
39 but they will also purify the water for all aquatic wildlife in our lakes and  
40 rivers. The benefits of reservoirs are immense.

41  
42 Section IV: The price of three reservoirs would be around 300,000 dollars,  
43 averaging out to about 100,000 dollars per reservoir. This will be funded  
44 through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Any  
45 money that is not used will be put back into the Tennessee Department of  
46 Environment and Conservation.

47  
48 Section V: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed  
49

50 Section VI: Following the implementation of the reservoirs, general upkeep  
51 including routine clearing of sediment and any other maintenance needed will  
52 be handled by the TDEC.

53  
54 Section VII: This act will take effect as soon as possible after ratification, in  
55 addition to public approval.



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



**BLUE SENATE**

**Sponsors: Cooper Acuff, Susannah Brink, Riley Davis, Drew Shelton  
School: ECS**

**An Act to Combat Teen Anxiety and Depression in Teens**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2

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

5

6 Depression-state of feeling sad, a common and serious medical illness that  
7 negatively affects how you feel, the way you think and how you act

8

9 Self harm-the act of purposely hurting oneself (as by cutting or burning the  
10 skin) as an emotional coping mechanism.

11

12 Online School-education that uses one or more technologies to deliver  
13 instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support  
14 regular and substantive interaction between the students.

15

16 Human connection-an energy exchange between people who are paying  
17 attention to one another, which has the power to deepen the moment,  
18 inspire change and build trust.

19

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

22

23 Section 2:

24

25 In March of 2020, students were sent home from public schools to complete  
26 their school year remotely. While the academic learning gap widened and  
27 athletic opportunities waned, a darker and more sinister trend took hold in  
28 the lives of our youth, that of increased teen anxiety and depression.

29

30 Section 3:

31

32 One in five Tennessee kids have expressed mental health issues, yet less  
33 than half have received treatment or support. In Tennessee, self-harm is the  
34 2nd leading cause of death between 10 and 17 year olds. There has been a  
35 24% increase for the self-harm rate in Tennessee since 2015 with teen girls  
36 composing more than 50% of that number. In Memphis, the self-harm rate  
per 100,000 is 7.9% which is above the national rate.

37

38 Section 4:

39

40 Sources of anxiety and depression causing recent self-harm acts stem from  
41 the following: lack of acknowledgment during the pandemic, not being able  
42 to attend school and the benefits that come with it, not being able to play  
43 sports, lack of activeness, little to no affection and acknowledgement in the

44

37 home, not being able to meet people due to the virus, and all other negative  
38 restrictions that the pandemic has applied on the youth of Tennessee.

39  
40 Section 5: Teachers, who were in the position to notice changes in behavior  
41 in their students while students met in person, now find themselves isolated  
42 from them. They are unable to assess the feelings of their students through  
43 daily internet course work.

44  
45 Section 6: If enacted, the following protocol would come into play during  
46 extended periods of school closures. Public school teachers shall be required  
47 to meet with students, at a minimum of once a week for half an hour, one on  
48 one, in order to set up basic human connection. This requirement will help to  
49 make the students feel heard/understood, which will hopefully help them  
50 cope with their feelings of depression. Statistics from the Tennessee Public  
51 Schools Association confirms a 16:1 teacher to student ratio, meaning that if  
52 each teacher could be assigned 16 students to make contact with each  
53 month, the entire student body could be easily reached.

54  
55 Section 7: Tennessee public school teachers will receive learning sessions  
56 where they can be trained in recognizing and handling students with severe  
57 depression or anxiety. These classes will be taught by a new task force  
58 funded by the Department of Education called TADA (Teen Anxiety and  
59 Depression Association)

60  
61 Section 8: This bill would require the funding of the TADA task force. We  
62 predict that to get their foundation running and continuing it over the years,  
63 we would provide for them 2.2 million dollars in annual operating funds. After  
64 the first fiscal year, it would require \$800,000 per annum.

65  
66 Section 9:  
67 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

68  
69 Section 10:  
70 This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2021, or at the beginning of the fiscal  
71 year.

72



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



---

**Sponsors: Ethan Zhao, Sarah Kilmurray  
School: St. George's**

**An act to require background checks for all private gun sales and transfers.**

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 a.) Private Gun Seller- A person who is not a licensed gun dealer that sells  
5 guns.

6 b.) Background Check-A process used by federally licensed gun dealers to  
7 verify that an individual is who they claim to be, as well as checking and  
8 confirming the validity of someone's criminal record to make sure that they  
9 can legally buy a gun.

10 c.) Gun- a weapon incorporating a metal tube from which bullets, shells, or  
11 other missiles are propelled by explosive force, typically making a  
12 characteristic loud, sharp noise.

13 d.) Firearm- a rifle, pistol, or other portable gun

14 e.) Gun Transfer- the transfer of a gun from an unlicensed individual residing  
15 in one state to another unlicensed individual residing in the same state.

16 f.) NICS- National Instant Criminal Background Check System

17 g.) TBI- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

18 h.) ATF- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) is  
19 the federal agency primarily responsible for administering and enforcing the  
20 criminal and regulatory provisions of the federal laws pertaining to  
21 destructive devices (bombs), explosives, and arson.

22 i.) ATF Form- a form prescribed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms,  
23 and Explosives, required to be completed when a person proposes to  
24 purchase a gun from a gun seller

25  
26 Section 2: Private gun sellers must perform background checks for all gun  
27 buyers and transfers under any circumstances.

28  
29 Section 3: Violators will face anywhere from 6 months-10 years in jail  
30 depending on what the buyer does with the gun. If the buyer does not  
31 commit any crimes, the violator will face less jail time. However, if the  
32 customer commits illegal actions with the gun, the buyer will face more jail  
33 time.

34  
35 Section 4: Sellers will be unable to sell guns if they violate this act.



36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

Section 5: The addition of this bill will cost no money. This act will generate revenue from the fines that violators will pay.

Section 6: Police officers will be responsible to enforce the law and work with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to make sure private sellers follow the law.

Section 7: When a person tries to buy a gun from a private seller, the seller must contact NICS or the TBI electronically or by phone. The prospective buyer fills out an ATF form, and the seller relays that information to the NICS or TBI. The staff of the background check organizations performs a background check on the buyer. That background check verifies the buyer does not have a criminal record or isn't otherwise ineligible to purchase or own a firearm.

Section 8: Gun transfers will also require background checks by sellers. The gun cannot be transferred until an ATF form is filled out and sent to background checks organizations for verification, just like buying a gun.

Section 9: Violators will be subject to fines based on the number of guns they have sold. If a seller illegally sells 1-5 guns, they will be faced with a \$50,000 fine. If they sell 6-10 guns, they will be faced with a \$100,000 fine. If they illegally sell more than 10 guns, they will face a \$150,000 fine and have a mandatory jail time of 3 years.

Section 10: All laws or parts of laws in conflict are hereby repealed.

Section 11: This act shall take effect immediately.



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



**Sponsors: Kate Wolfkill, Ashlynn Ostner, Sara Mae Fields  
School: St. Mary's**

**AN ACT TO EDUCATE TENNESSEE'S SENIOR CITIZENS IN  
TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:  
2

3 Section 1: Terms used in this bill are defined as follows:

4 a) A senior citizen is a person 70 years of age and older.

5 b) Technology includes desktop computers, laptops, cellular phones, and  
6 tablets, and these products' systems.  
7

8 Section 2: If enacted, this bill will propose technology classes for Tennessee's  
9 senior citizens.  
10

11 Section 3: In 2021, 16.5% of Tennessee's population consists of senior citizens.  
12

13 Section 4: As of 2017, 67% of citizens 65 years and up had Internet.  
14

15 Section 5: The senior citizen classes will be held at all 289 libraries in Tennessee.  
16

17 Section 5: For one month, one two-hour class will be held every week.  
18

19 Section 6: Each class will be supervised by a trained educator. For each two-  
20 hour class, the educator will be paid \$15 per hour.  
21

22 Section 7: The cost will be approximately \$35,000 for the 289 educators and  
23 for advertising.  
24

25 Section 8: Tennessee's 2020 overall education budget is \$10.6 billion.  
26

27 Section 9: The \$35,000 requested for this program is not even 1%  
28 (0.00033%) of Tennessee's current education budget.  
29

30 Section 10: Advertisement will be through places of worship, local shops and  
31 stores, local libraries, and newspapers.  
32

33 Section 11: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.  
34

35 Section 12: This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022, the public welfare  
36 requiring it.



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



**BLUE SENATE**

**Sponsors: Manvik Barkakati, Rian Kim, Suryansh Bathina, Dewang Sahay  
School: Woodland Middle School**

**An Act To Require All Businesses In Tennessee To Provide Paid  
Maternity Leave**

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2

3 Section 1) Terms used in this act are defined as follows:

4 Paid Maternity Leave- A period when a woman is legally absent from work  
5 before and after she has a baby, and during which she is paid.

6

7 Section 2) The State of Tennessee will have to require buisnesses to give a  
8 paid maternity leave for at least 20 weeks.

9

10 Section 3) The mother will have to receive at least 2/3 of her original pay  
11 and receive the full health and insurance benefits of the job. If she works on  
12 an hourly wage she will be paid based on the average hours worked before  
13 leave.

14

15 Section 4) Any company that violates this law shall pay the mother 2 extra  
16 months of her average monthly pay. In addition, If the company fails to  
17 provide due payment, the State of Tennessee may fine the business  
18 accordingly.

19

20 Section 5) This act will not require any funding from the state.

21

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

23

24 Section 7) This act shall be enacted by the State of Tennessee as soon as the  
25 bill is passed.