Democracy must be learned by each generation.
TENNESSEE YMCA

MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
Sponsored by the YMCA Center for Civic Engagement

May 7, 2021
CONFERENCE AGENDA

9:00 – 9:15AM  Orientation and Training

9:15 – 11:45AM House & Senate Committees

11:45 – 12:30PM Lunch

12:30 – 3:00PM House & Senate Sessions
Blue House (H1–3)
Red House (H4–6)
Blue Senate (S1–3)
Red Senate (S4–6)

3:00 – 3:15PM Closing Ceremony
Tennessee YMCA Middle School Youth In Government

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Conference Agenda__________________________________________2
Program Administration____________________________________4
MS YIG Roster____________________________________________5-11
Understanding the Committee Process________________________12
Script for Debate_________________________________________13-14
Format for Debate_________________________________________15
Rules of Procedure_________________________________________16-18
Table of Motions___________________________________________19
Committees_______________________________________________20-162

   House 1_____________20-33
   House 2______________34-45
   House 3______________46-55
   House 4______________56-68
   House 5______________69-81
   House 6______________82-91
   Senate 1_____________92-102
   Senate 2_____________103-114
   Senate 3_____________115-127
   Senate 4_____________128-139
   Senate 5_____________140-152
   Senate 6_____________153-162
TENNESSEE YMCA
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Nashville, TN 37203
Fax: 888.724.2810
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Innovation</th>
<th>Feasibility</th>
<th>Statewide Impact</th>
<th>Content &amp; Research</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
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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.
TABLE OF MOTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>When Another has the Floor</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Debatable</th>
<th>Amendable</th>
<th>Vote</th>
<th>Reconsider</th>
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<tr>
<td>Main Motion (Bill or resolution)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Only with permission from CCE staff</td>
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<td>Adjourn</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Amend</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
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<td>Appeal</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Postpone to a certain time</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Question (end debate)</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
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<td>Recess</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Suspend the Rules</td>
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<td>Withdraw Motions</td>
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<td>Point of Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point of Order/Parliamentary Inquiry</td>
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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.
An Act to Further Prevent Animal Cruelty

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

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

a) Animal Abuse: Causing physical harm to an animal with a malicious intent.
b) Animal Neglect: The intentional cruelty of knowingly depriving an animal of their basic needs including denying food, water, shelter, socialization, and veterinary care.
c) Multiple Offender: Someone who has been charged with animal abuse or animal neglect two or more times.

Section 2) This act prohibits abuse inflicted upon all domesticated animals within the state of Tennessee.

Section 3) Under this act, the penalty of animal abuse is a fine of $1,500 USD per animal. The fine for animal neglect is $750. Repeat offenders will be fined with an extra $500 USD. If a dead animal who clearly died from animal abuse or animal neglect is found on the property of an offender, they will be charged with an extra $700 USD per animal.

Section 4) If an individual animal or multiple animals is found dead as a result of neglect or abuse, the person deemed responsible will be the property owner where the animal remains were found. As a result, the offender will serve 12 to 18 months in prison. Individuals guilty of multiple offenses will serve 24 months in total.

Section 5) This act will not require funding from the state budget but may generate revenue resulting from fines. 15% of fines collected will be donated to the Tennessee Animal Sanctuary.

Section 6) If enacted, this bill would have minimal financial cost to the state of Tennessee due to the fact that animal control officers are already employed by the state.

Section 7) This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, or the beginning of the fiscal year.
An Act to Protect Girls Sports

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1: Terms used in this act, unless context requires otherwise, shall be defined as follows.
Male: a person bearing an X and Y chromosome pair in the cell nuclei
Female: a person bearing two X chromosomes
Transgender: noting or relating to a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person’s sex assigned at birth
Transgender girl: a person who identifies as female though they are biologically male.
Testosterone: a hormone that acts as the primary sex hormone in men, primarily produced by the male testicles

SECTION 2: Sports have traditionally been divided into leagues to insure fairness in competition between participants. Divisions have been based on age, skill, size of school and gender to not only ensure comparable opponents but also to protect the safety of all participants.

SECTION 3: In the past five years, there have been an increasing number of transgender girls playing alongside girls in girls sports. These allowances have been made in the effort to bring fairness and dignity to athletes who identify as members of the opposite sex. And while every effort needs to be made to allow these athletes to express their gender identity, allowing transgender girls to compete alongside naturally born girls in sports creates not only an unfair advantage for transgender girls, but also creates an insurmountable hurdle for naturally born females to succeed in their chosen sport.

SECTION 4: Males have approximately 40% greater muscle mass than females, so even with testosterone suppression, transgender women athletes have a muscle mass advantage over females. Specifically, this research shows that, at minimum, transgender women athletes would have 28% more muscle mass than females even with therapy. No study has reported muscle loss greater than 12% with testosterone suppression even after 3 years of hormone therapy.
SECTION 5: If enacted, this act would ensure that all athletes would compete as their gender assigned at birth as an extension of their set biological chromosomes, not their gender preference.

SECTION 6: This bill would have minimal financial cost to the State of Tennessee.

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

SECTION 8: This bill shall take effect on January 1st, 2022.
AN ACT TO IMPROVE ROAD AND BRIDGE CONDITIONS IN UNDEVELOPED PARTS OF TENNESSEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section I: Terms in this act will be defined as it is followed:

A) Asphalt: A building material used in the construction of surfacing roads, flooring, or roofing, etc.

B) Deficient: not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient/insufficient or inadequate

C) GDP: GDP stands for “gross domestic product” and it is the total value of goods and services provided in a country in one year.

D) Hard Infrastructure: The category of infrastructure dealing with bridges, roads, etc.

E) Infrastructure: The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.

F) Perpetual Pavement: A type of asphalt pavement that is designed and built to last at least 50 years without any maintenance or major reconstruction.

G) Pothole: A depression in a road surface, usually asphalt pavement, where traffic has removed broken pieces of the pavement. It is usually the result of water in the underlying soil structure and traffic passing over the affected area.

H) Wheel Rut: Grooves in the roads that form due to the tires constantly wearing the roads out in the same pattern.

Section II: Roads and bridges pose a large problem in Tennessee as they are not in stable condition and can be a danger to drivers. The 2021 Infrastructure Report Card for Tennessee states that 4.4% of all bridges in Tennessee are structurally deficient, which is about 890 of the 20,226 bridges. Not to mention that 5% of the roads in Tennessee are in poor condition with the drivers on those roads having to pay around $209 per year. On several roads and bridges around Tennessee, problems like potholes and wheel ruts cause the roads to crack and become uneven. Roads in poor conditions can be hard to navigate around and can also cause severe accidents.
Section III: Under this act, road and bridge conditions in underdeveloped and impoverished areas in Tennessee will be benefited from the use of more eco-friendly alternatives of concrete. Since the replacement of already existing and well-developed roads would be unproductive as they have already been made, only roads in underdeveloped areas will have adjustments made. In the case of undeveloped roads, the use of perpetual pavement will greatly enhance the road conditions and is also eco-friendly. Perpetual pavement is a type of asphalt that is designed to last at least fifty years without any required maintenance. Research has shown that when perpetual pavement or any other type of asphalt is mixed with recycled glass, the asphalt will be sturdier and better secured. So, along with the use of asphalt on precarious roads, the mixing of recycled glass will significantly decrease the chances of issues like potholes and tire grooves. Perpetual pavement has been tested and confirmed for its resistance to issues like forming cracks or crevices.

Section IV: The improvement of infrastructure will greatly contribute to the state’s GDP. When more goods and services can move at longer distances on better-secured roads, more people can afford goods and services causing the GDP to increase. It has also been found that infrastructure is a key to success in economic development as undeveloped and inadequate infrastructure restricts economic growth by 1.5 to 2 percent every year.

Section V: This law will cost at least $4.5 million when dealing with the costs for just transportation and infrastructure utilities in impoverished parts of Tennessee. In general, infrastructure in Tennessee needs at least $58.6 billion including the categories of education, health, recreation, and economic development, etc. Out of that $58.6 billion, at least $33.8 billion is required for the development and work on hard infrastructure. And out of that $33.8 billion, a minimum of $4.5 million will be needed for the further construction of undeveloped roads in Tennessee. This law will not improve road conditions throughout all of Tennessee, but rather, will only improve road conditions in undeveloped areas. That would estimate to $4.5 million with that amount being the minimum total cost.

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

Section VII: This act will be put into effect immediately upon becoming a law with the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO INCREASE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEW TEACHERS’ STIPEND

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Definition of terms:

a) Stipend is a predetermined amount of money paid to certain individuals, in this case, new teachers, to help offset some of their expenses.

b) New teacher is a full-time, K-12 teacher completely new to the teaching field.

Section 2: Teachers are given only $100 to spend for instructional supplies on October 31st of the school year. Prior to this date, most teachers are spending out-of-pocket money to provide for their students.

Section 3: If enacted, this bill will provide a $500 minimum stipend for new public school teachers.

Section 4: This bill would allow new teachers to buy school supplies such as pencils, paper, posters, and other classroom necessities.

Section 5: There are 78,000 public school teachers in Tennessee, and of that number, 13,260, or 17%, are new teachers.

Section 5: This bill would cost $5.5 million, less than 0.1% of Tennessee’s annual education budget, and would be funded by the Tennessee Department of Education.

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

Section 7: This act shall take effect August 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act to End Solitary Confinement in Tennessee

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

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

a.) Solitary confinement - This is when a prisoner is put into a room that they cannot interact with anyone in the prison. This punishment can be highly detrimental to a person’s state of mind.

Section 2: If enacted this bill will end all use of solitary confinement as a punishment in Tennessee. It will also release all prisoners in solitary confinement to either a normal or special cellblock.

Section 3: Solitary confinement has been shown to cause long term mental and emotional trauma on prisoners who are subjected to this form of punishment. Long term (anything more than 24 hours) exposure to solitary confinement is the very definition of cruel and unusual punishment and therefore violates the 8th Amendment’s protections against such acts. We are better than this Tennessee!

Section 4: The cost of this bill to the state of Tennessee will be nothing. The TN State Department of Corrections already budgets for oversight of correctional institutions. If a private prison or a state run correctional facility does not conform to this law they will be fined $100,000 per offense. Fines will double for a second offense and a third offense will result in a state review.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect June 1st, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO PRIVATIZE ISSUING DRIVERS LICENSES AND LEARNERS PERMITS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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

Privatize: Transfer (a business, industry, or service) from public to private ownership and control.

Driver’s Licenses: A document permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle.

Learners Permit: A restricted license that is given to a person who is learning to drive.

Issuing: Supply or distribute (something).

Department of Motor Vehicles(DMV): A state-level government agency that administers vehicle registration and driver licensing.

Section 2) This act will eliminate the Department of Motor Vehicles(DMV) power to issue license permits and instead privatize issuing drivers’ licenses and permits. This will improve everyone’s experiences, create competition, and limit wait time for individuals trying to obtain a license or learner’s permit. The Government will still provide the Tennessee state seal required to make official licenses and learner’s permits.

Section 3) This act will not require any funding from the state of Tennessee however it will save Tennessee money as the state government will not have to pay for DMVs or workers at DMVs.

Section 4) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 5) This act will take place on April 27, 2021
AN ACT TO INCREASE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Renewable Energy: energy from a source that is not depleted when used, such as wind or solar power.

Factory: a building or group of buildings where goods are manufactured or assembled chiefly by machine.

Tennessee: a state in the central southeastern US.

Dollar: the basic monetary unit of the US, Canada, Australia, and certain countries in the Pacific, Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America.

Wind farm: A wind farm is a group of wind turbines in the same location used for the production of electric power. A large wind farm may consist of several hundred individual wind turbines distributed over an extended area. Wind turbines use around 0.3 hectares of land per MW, but the land between the turbines may be used for agricultural or other purposes.

Solar farm: an installation or area of land in which a large number of solar panels are set up in order to generate electricity.

Hectare: a metric unit of square measure, equal to 100 acres (2.471 acres or 10,000 square meters).

Megawatt/mw: a unit of power equal to one million watts, especially as a measure of the output of a power station.

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

Section 2.) The State of Tennessee will require any factory within the state of Tennessee must convert at least 12% of their energy to any form of renewable energy.

Section 3.) This bill will go into effect 1 year after farms are finished constructing.

Section 4.) If any factory is unable to meet the criteria, they must pay a fine starting of $100 per month. This price will go up 20% more each month the factory is unable to meet the criteria after the first month. The cap for this is $200,000 per month.

Section 5.) All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
Section 6.) The government will pay to have 10 wind farms, and 20 solar farms across the state of Tennessee for factories to use. Each wind farm will be 1.5 million dollars for each MW. Each solar farm will be $500,000 per acre. We plan on having 2 acre solar farms. We plan on having 2 MW for each wind farm. This will add up to $50 million in all.

Section 7.) We will be charging factories $10.29 for each kilowatt used from our farms.

Section 8.) 1 year after the bill is in effect, there will be an evaluation regarding if we need to increase or decrease certain aspects of our bill. These aspects could include the cost per kilowatt, or how much percent of the business need to be charged by renewable energy. Other aspects will also apply.
An act requiring churches to publicize how the donation money is spent.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1) Terms in this bill are defined as follows:
Church: A building for the public and more specifically Christian worship.
Donation: An amount of money given to a charity and/or company from a donor/donors.
Transparent/Transparency: (Of a company or organization) open to the public for scrutiny.
Publicize: Make public to only members of the church.

Section 2) This act will require churches to tell donors how their donation money will be spent to limit churches spending money that should be going towards another purpose.

Section 3) Under this act, the penalty for not being transparent to a donor would be giving the money back to the donor, and telling donors where the money is going.

Section 4) This act will not require funding from the state.

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

Section 6) This act shall take effect immediately on becoming a law.
An Act to Require Debate in Public Tennessee High Schools

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:

Debate - a formal discussion on a particular topic in a public meeting in which opposing arguments are put forward.

Curriculum - the subjects comprising a course of study in a school

Section 2: Social trends in the nation point to a growing need for the study of public debate. With much of the current curriculum devoted to the memorization of dates, formulas and facts, students have either lost the ability to form independent opinions or do not feel they have a voice to express them. The heightened political climate in our nation has left many feeling that unpopular opinions are synonymous with hate speech, and that anyone who disagrees with their opinion has disrespected them.

Section 3: The study of debate helps students in many ways. 1. It helps their public speaking skills. 2. It helps them articulate their thoughts. 3. It encourages research into varying opinions. 4. It helps students face disagreement in a healthy, structured format. 5. It helps students gain critical thinking tools.

Section 4: In Tennessee, debate is most commonly an extracurricular club attended after school and most often within the private school system. No official system exists to teach debate as a class in the public school system, where students finding their voice is incredibly difficult.

Section 5: If enacted, debate would be added to the core curriculum for graduation in the State of Tennessee. The course would serve as a one semester elective to be taken at any point in their high school career.

Section 6: This bill would have minimal financial cost to the State of Tennessee other than the initial cost of $100,000 to research and establish the curriculum.

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

Section 8: This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2022.
BE IT RESOLVED/ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: All terms in this resolution shall be defined as follows:
Recycling: the action of converting waste into usable material.
Recycling bins: Containers used to hold recyclable materials until picked up or dropped off at a recycling center.

Section 2: An increase in number of recycling bins in Tennessee. This will encourage many people to recycle, causing less trash and waste of otherwise usable materials.

Section 3: This process would take three years and have a high upfront cost.

Section 4: 80 million dollars to be taken out of the forty one billion dollar budget for Tennessee. (As of 2020, there was a billion dollar surplus in the budget, this money will come from this surplus.)

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect November 15, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
An act to strengthen Tennessee gun safety

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

(SECTION 1) Any contraction with the intent of firing a projectile and looking with the realism of a gun can not exceed 800 FPS or it will be considered a weapon. You may not also bring this into the public where it can be visibly seen unless being able to tell that it is fake from a distance of 50 meters.

(SECTION 2) following up on this statement, any weapon that exceeded 800 FPS or a real weapon, must be carried in that person’s home or residence. If that person is taking their weapon outside of their property, for hunting, etc. Must be carried in a concealed steel case, with a seal lock, and with no projectiles/ammo nearby or in the case.

(SECTION 3) The weapon must also be carried at least 6 feet away from you and must have a permit with the case or on your person.

(SECTION 4) If a weapon is found in the case with the case unlocked, punishments will result in a $5,000 to $7,000 fee, with a possible license revocation regarding the severity.

(SECTION 5) In the case you are pulled over by any unit of law enforcement, you must immediately show your license, ID, and gun license, with telling the officer where your weapon case is located.

(SECTION 6) Every year you MUST refresh your gun license, if you refresh late your license will be revoked and will limit the chance of receiving one back. The refreshment must also include multiple forms and a total of 30 hours of training.

(SECTION 7) You must be 21 years or older (exceeding ex-military/ law enforcement) to own a weapon with the FPS over 800 and must attend a specific 300-hour course, and a 500-hour session of a private trainer.

(SECTION 8) If in the process of purchasing a weapon you must purchase from a verified store by the Tennessee Government and must have a license beforehand.

(SECTION 9) Any cost or payment involved will be paid by the Tennessee Government and shall take effect April 16, 2021.
BHB/2-3

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

Sponsors: Danelli Lara-Garcia, Monica Prado
School: Collegiate

An Act to Enforce Just Review Under Death Penalty Cases

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

Section 1: Terms in this act shall be defined as followed:
1. Death Penalty - a punishment of execution to a person convicted of a capital crime.
2. Court of Appeals - a court to which appeals are taken into federal circuit or a state

Section 2: If enacted this bill will ensure that each court case is justly served. Either it shall decrease executions or increase executions, but it will better ensure that not one person is wrongly convicted of a crime.

Section 3:
When a person is convicted of a criminal act in a court of law that person has the constitutional right to appeal their conviction. However, while the courts are legally required to appoint a lawyer for a general sessions criminal trial no lawyer is appointed for an appeal. The effect of this being that generally only wealthier individuals can afford to appeal a criminal conviction. This of course has obvious racial implications as people of color are less likely to file an appeal in a criminal court case. This law seeks to mandate that criminal convictions resulting in a sentence of death be automatically accepted to the TN Court of Appeals for review and that the state of TN provide a court appointed lawyer for people who are unable to provide their own counsel.

As of March 2021, there are 49 convicted prisoners on Death Row in TN. The average inmate is on death row for 15 years. The average cost of incarcerating a prisoner on death row is $90,000 a year. This bill seeks to lessen the time a prisoner will spend on death row, by speeding up the appeals process.

In addition this bill seeks to fulfill the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution which provides a speedy trial for all people charged with criminal acts. This bill will seek to cut an inmate's time on death row in half, by providing a speedy appeals trial, which will either exonerate the criminal, lessen their sentence, or confirm the lower court's sentence of death.
Section 4: The cost of this bill to the state of Tennessee will be nothing. The state of Tennessee already funds the TN State Court of Appeals, meaning it will not put the Government and its people into further debt. The passage of this bill may bump other criminal appeals lower down in the order of hearing; however, the issue at hand, the sentence of death, is a matter which should take precedent.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect upon enactment, the public welfare requiring it.
An act to allow the state of Tennessee to charge a person with two murders if the victim was pregnant at the time of death.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:
A) Murder: is the unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another.
B) Pregnant: Is the term used to describe the period in which a fetus develops inside a woman’s womb or uterus.

Section 2: When a pregnant woman is murder the state will be able to charge the person accused of the crime with two murders. Depending on the person accused of murder this will determine the years this person will have in prison.

Section 3: This will allow for stronger sentencing for the person that is found guilty.

Section 4: For this bill will not cost the state anything.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately upon becoming a law with public welfare requiring it.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

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

Driving License- A document permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle; a driver's license.

Driving Points- Points that are added up on a driver's license due to traffic violations.

Traffic Offense/Violation- An act that occurs when drivers don’t follow laws that regulate vehicle operation on streets and highways.

Fine - a sum of money exacted as a penalty by a court of law

Citation /Ticket- Written document issued by a police for not obeying traffic laws.

Section II: In the past decade more than 10,000 cases of traffic fatalities have occurred in Tennessee. The fatal and serious injury crashes have increased by 10.1 percent (2021) from the previous year. The daily rate of traffic fatalities involving teen drivers (13-19) have increased from 25 to 33 from 2020 to 2021.

Section III: The current fines for traffic violation range between 25 dollars to 146.50 dollar depending on the violation. This fine is not enough to discourage people from continuing to commit traffic offenses. To counter this, the present fines for traffic violations shall be escalated by 10 percent for each offense after the first offense. In case of speeding offenses, the fine shall be escalated by 20 percent each time after the first offense.

Section IV: Also drivers are given points ranging from 1 to 8 for some violations. As per this bill, the drivers (adults) who have accumulated 9 points or more in a year will be sent a notice of proposed suspension. However, they are given an opportunity for a hearing. For juvenile drivers, the notice is sent after 6 points accumulation. But after 3 points accumulation, they will be sent a notice to attend a defensive driving school course for 4 hours. If they fail to do so, then they will be sent a notice of proposed suspension with an opportunity for a hearing.
Section V: The fines that have been collected from the violators will increase revenue as well as decrease the chance that people will commit traffic violations. Over time the bill will encourage the traffic violators to follow correct speeds and rules, thereby decreasing the number of accidents and fatalities.

Section VI: Reckless driving has caused many accidents, and fatalities in Tennessee. The state pays around 3-5 percent costs associated with each crash. The traffic crash death costs (medical and work loss) in 2018 for Tennessee are around 1.5 billion dollars. 25 percent of the revenue collected from increased fines will be put up in a fund for crash victims. The increased revenue further is to be utilized towards improved traffic devices and promotions on driver safety across the state in addition to the funding provided by Tennessee Department of Transportation.

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

Section VIII: This bill shall take effect from May 30, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
Mandatory Cardiovascular Screening for High School Athletes

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:

a) EKG: an electrocardiogram - a noninvasive test of electrical activity in the heart.

b) Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD): is a sudden, unexpected death caused by loss of heart function.


Section 2: This bill would require all students participating in TSSAA sports in their first and third year of participation to get EKG screenings along with yearly physicals. This would identify athletes at risk for sudden cardiac death.

Section 3: The cardiovascular screening would also include: an evaluation that includes questions about family and personal history, including heart-related symptoms such as fainting or chest discomfort a physical exam in which doctors measure blood pressure and check the blood vessels and heart, including listening for heart murmurs. This screening would flag individuals who should be referred to a cardiologist for further evaluation.

Section 4: This will not cost the State of Tennessee any money. Athletes pay for their own sports physicals. An EKG costs $15. A government grant will be available for students unable to pay.

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

Section 6: When signed into law, this bill will go into effect on July 1, 2021.
Sponsors: Will Getman, Anna Zhang, Jade Masters  
School: St. George's

An act to substitute 50% of our factories’ power sources with clean energy sources (over the course of 10 years).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms included in this act will be defined as follows:
A. Clean energy - A source of energy that is renewable and creates zero emissions, i.e., solar energy, wind energy, hydro energy, tidal energy, geothermal energy.
B. Factory - a building, or group of buildings, where power is generated chiefly by a machine or machines.
C. Tennessee Department of Energy - the department that controls and oversees all uses of energy throughout Tennessee.

Section 2: Over the course of ten (10) years, at least 50% of all factories, in Tennessee, must convert to a clean energy source.

Section 3: The Tennessee Department of Energy will be held responsible for enforcing the law, even if randomly, they will notify certain factories and inform them of the new law. Factories that do not comply, within the time given, will receive a warning and will have 90 days to convert or they will be fined one thousand (1,000) dollars a week until the energy source is changed.

Section 4: This act will not require funding from Tennessee, but may earn revenue from paid fines.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect on October 1st once approved.
An Act to Criminalize the Consumption of Alcohol While Pregnant

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:
- Alcohol - a colorless volatile flammable liquid that is produced by the natural fermentation of sugars and is the intoxicating constituent of wine, beer, spirits, and other drinks, and is also used as an industrial solvent and as fuel.
- Criminalize - turn (an activity) into a criminal offense by making it illegal.
- Pregnant - (of a woman or female animal) having a child or young developing in the uterus.
- Consumption: the using up of a resource - industrialized countries should reduce their energy consumption.
- Preterm birth - A birth that occurs before the 37th week of pregnancy.
- Jeopardized - To put (someone or something) into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm, or failure.
- Alcohol rehabilitation program - A program designed by professionals that helps people who are addicted to alcohol learn how to stop.
- Fetal alcohol syndrome - a condition in a child that results from alcohol exposure during the mother's pregnancy.

Section 2: 1 in 71 pregnant women in the United States reports binge drinking. This can cause the child's brain development to change and be harmed, health problems, preterm birth, low birth weight, and birth defects of the mouth and lip. Drinking during pregnancy also increases the risk of sudden infant death syndrome. This bill will make it illegal for pregnant women to consume alcohol.

Section 3: If a baby is born with fetal alcohol syndrome or it could be otherwise proven, then the mother/guardian loses custody of the child. The child is then put into foster care until the mother/guardian completes a licensed alcohol rehabilitation program and proves that they stay sober for a total of 3-6 months.

Section 4: The average cost it takes to put a child in foster care. Regular foster care board rates for Tennessee are currently set at $25.38 per day for children aged 0-11 and $29.09 per day for children twelve and older. Current
special circumstances board rates are $27.92 for children 0-11 and $32.00 per day for kids who are twelve and older.

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

Section 6: Immediately upon action of the bill.
An act to make it illegal to waste police resources

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

a) Class C misdemeanor: Under Tennessee’s laws, class C misdemeanors are the least serious misdemeanors, punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a fine of up to $50, or both. (Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-35-111 (2019)).

b) Infraction- A charge under a misdemeanor, which does not usually consist of a trial, usually results in fine.

c) Police resources- Time, money, or materials given to police to enforce the law.

d) Minor Discomfort- A small act that is only inconvenient and not harmful in any way.

Section 2: This bill aims to reduce the number of non emergency 911 calls by punishing those over 18 who decide to waste police resources by punishing them in order to prevent it in the future.

Section 3: If a responding officer believes that there was a misuse of police funds, the caller is issued a citation, and after 3 convicted citations, they will be charged with a class C misdemeanor.

Section 4: The citation will be dealt with in open court where the defendant can be declared guilty or innocent.

Section 5: This bill will carry no charge, and will make positive revenue for the government through fines.

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

Section 7: This bill will take effect upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATIVE:

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:
NCAA: (National Collegiate Athletic Association) is a nonprofit organization that regulates student athletes from up to 1,268 North American institutions and conferences.
Athletes: a person who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports, or games requiring physical strength, agility, or stamina.
Name, image, likeness: name, image and likeness” are three elements that make up a legal concept known as “right of publicity.” Right of publicity involves those situations where permission is required of a person to use their name, image or likeness.

Section 2:
This law will allow college athletes to be paid by companies that use their name, image, or likeness without the athletes being penalized by the NCAA.

Section 3:
No penalty for this bill.

Section 4:
No cost for this bill.

Section 5:
All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
An Act to Provide Food for Homeless Shelters

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

a) Best By Dates: the dates recommended that you use the product by for best taste
b) Food Deserts: an urban area in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food
c) Rainy Day Fund: budget set aside by the government to cover for whatever it may deem worthy
d) Tax Cuts: a reduction in the rate of tax charged by a government

Section 2) This act will allow provisions for homeless shelters from various food stores etc., and as defined in section 1, food they consider expired can be donated to homeless shelters.

Section 3) In addition, a new division of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will be added. This new division will consist of food inspection programs that will inspect the food that will be going to these homeless shelters.

Section 4) The initial cost of this bill will be $120 million, acquired from the Rainy Day Fund. In the years following, the net cost will be on a decreasing scale because the formation of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Food Inspection Division, which will also be paid for by the Rainy Day Fund, will be complete.

Section 5) The money from the Rainy Day Fund, as mentioned in Section 3, will go toward transportation of food and the formation of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The set money in the Tennessee Rainy Day Fund for the 2021-2022 year is $1.5 billion.

Section 6) If a company does not comply, offer tax cuts for those locations so that they have incentive to comply. This money will be covered by the Rainy Day Fund. Not only will there be an incentive to comply, but by enforcing these cuts, the economy will most likely rise because it will boost spending.

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

Section 8: This law will be put into force upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: All terms in this Resolution shall be defined as follows:
Big Business is hereby defined as large-scale or important financial or commercial activity.
Environmental sustainability is hereby defined as the responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect global ecosystems to support health and wellbeing, now and in the future.
Inspection is hereby defined as careful examination or scrutiny.

Section 2: This bill will require every major business in the state to submit to an annual inspections regarding the environmental sustainability of their business.

Section 3: The consequences of this bill may include a minor decrease in the scale of the mass productions of certain common resources.

Section 4: This bill will cost about 1,000 a year.

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect immediately after passage, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act To Improve Tennessee's Highway Infrastructure

Section 1: This act will increase gas taxes from 27.4 cents per gallon to 31 cents per gallon. Increasing gas taxes will lead to more money for highway maintenance, saving many lives.

Section 2: Refusing to cooperate with this bill will be fined $50 and a warning, and if it repeats they will be fined no less than $200 and two nights in jail.

Section 3: No funding will be needed for this bill, but revenue may result from fines.

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

Section 5: This act shall take effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.

Section 6: If asked by a state official officer, residents must prove that taxes have been paid for by showing previous money transactions and checks.
An Act to Provide Bike Only Lanes for Cyclists

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:
a) Cycling Lane: A lane created for use by cyclists only. It must be at least 10 feet away from any road.

Section 2: Acknowledging that it is very dangerous for cyclists to ride on the road, this bill provides for the creation of cycling lanes.

Section 3: Cycling lanes will be made 10 feet away from any road that has a speed limit at or over 45 miles per hour.

Section 4: Cyclists must follow the same laws vehicles do. Cycling on main roads is only permitted when there is no cycling lane on the road.

Section 5: A $125 ticket will be given to any cyclist who does not follow this law.

Section 6: Cycling lanes will be funded by 15% of traffic tickets in Tennessee, until the lanes are completely funded.

Section 7: When signed into law, this bill will go into effect on July 1, 2022
A BILL TO BETTER ALLOCATE TAX MONEY IN SCHOOL SYSTEMS

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:

School systems- K-12 Public Schools
Redistribution of taxes- Regrouping of school funds
Older Schools- 20 years or older

Section 2: Millions of dollars are spent each year on new schools. 15% of funds budgeted towards education should be used to renovate the older schools in need of renovations.

Section 3: Be it enacted that all city/county school systems must better allocate taxpayer dollars. School systems in the state that do not follow this plan will lose 15% of the money received from the state.

Section 4: Two percent of taxpayer dollars goes toward education. This bill will have no cost, as the amount of money isn’t increasing/decreasing, the money is just being regrouped.

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

Section 6: This bill shall take effect on August 1, 2021, before the beginning of the school year.
An Act to Promote School Choice

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms used in this act, unless the the context requires otherwise, shall be defined as follows:
A. School Choice- is a term for pre-college public education options, describing a wide array of programs offering students and their families voluntary alternatives to publicly provided schools, to which students are generally assigned by the location of their family residence.
B. Promote- further the progress of (something, especially a cause, venture, or aim); support or actively encourage.

Section 2: Currently, school districts are paid a set price per student for the education of that child. The price is set by the Basic Education Program and uses various factors such as attendance to distribute school funding. The price per student on average is about $9,600 per pupil.

Section 3: Sadly, 65% of Tennessee schools are falling behind. Literacy Rates stand at 86.80%. The Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results for Tennessee are 36% below the national average. Children who are sent to failing schools because of where their primary residence is being cheated out of a better life.

Section 4: Children in low income communities cannot afford private education and are therefore locked into failing districts. Public schools have been closed during the pandemic. Private schools have been open.

Section 5: If enacted, a school choice voucher system would be put into place. The funds allocated by the state for the education of the child will be set aside to be used at the discretion of the parents. At the beginning of the school year, the parent will inform the Department of Education directly which school their child will attend. This decision will apply to that school year.

Section 6: The funds will follow the student either to a public school district or to a private school. All funds needed to send the student to a private
institution in excess of the state allocation will be the sole responsibility of
the guardians of the child.

Section 7: The act would require no additional costs to the state of
Tennessee, but it would require reallocation of expenditures within the
Department of Education budget.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby
repealed.

Section 9: This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2021, or the beginning of the
fiscal year.
AN ACT TO MAKE THE WEARING OF MASKS OPTIONAL IN PUBLIC PLACES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1: Terms in this bill are defined as follows:
Masks - a covering made of fiber or gauze and fitting over the nose and mouth to protect against dust or air pollutants, or made of sterile gauze and worn to prevent infection of the wearer or (in surgery) of the patient.
Public places - A public place is generally an indoor or outdoor area, whether privately or publicly owned, to which the public have access by right or by invitation, expressed or implied, whether by payment of money or not, but not a place when used exclusively by one or more individuals for a private gathering or other personal purpose.
Coronavirus - Coronavirus: a type of common virus that infects humans, typically leading to an upper respiratory infection (URI.)
Optional - available to be chosen but not obligatory.

Section 2: This bill will remove the requirement to wear masks in public places.

Section 3: This bill has no penalty.

Section 4: This act will not require funding from the state budget.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately upon becoming a law with public welfare requiring it.
An Act To End Police Brutality

Be it enacted by the TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1:
In 2016, 224 unarmed people were killed by the police in Tennessee, and 57% of those people were African American or Latino. In Germany, where they have one of the lowest crime rates, these police officers are required 2-4 years of training. From 2010 through 2011, 15 citizens were fatally shot by police officers in Germany. In the first five months of 2015, 19 unarmed black men were shot by the police in America. If the US’s population was ratio’d to Germany’s population, which is about 25 percent of America’s, there would have been about 5 unarmed black people shot, compared to Germany’s 15 people shot over all races, armed or unarmed, in over four times longer the amount of time than the US. In Norway, they are required to complete 3 years of training. In 12 years, there were 18 police shootings in Norway, and police officers threatened to shoot 813 times as an alternative to pulling the trigger.

Section 2:
Already officers should train for 1 month. New officers should train for 1 year, and the minimum training time is 480 hours.

Section 3:
The Community Oriented Policing Service U.S. Department of Justice was established by Congress in 1994. They have invested over $14 billion in community policing over the years. There are 15,976 officers in Tennessee. This department will grant us money to help pay for the longer training of police officers.

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

Section 5: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022. the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO AMEND T.C.A. § 49-2-122 MAKING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR MANDATORY FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND SCHOOLS IN TENNESSEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows: (a) Current law- section 49-2-122 states that all public schools are required to have an Automated External Defibrillator. (b) Automated External Defibrillator (AED)- lightweight, battery-operated, portable device that checks the heart’s rhythm and sends a shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm. (c) Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) - abrupt loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness. (d) Childcare Facility - Any facility with the responsibility and care for more than 15 children at a time (daycare programs, parents day out programs; does not include in-home daycare)

Section 2) This act will require all child care facilities, private schools and public schools to have a working Automated External Defibrillator on the premises; one (1) AED per floor of the building.

Section 3) Due to the increased success of resuscitation of persons experiencing an SCA with an AED versus CPR alone, it is necessary for the protection of children and teachers in a childcare facility or educational institution to have access to a working AED.

Section 4) The installation of life-saving AEDs will be supervised by a licensed technician and will be inspected annually to ensure proper function. AEDs are to be installed in an easily accessible area, preferably near to where physical activity is most likely to occur.

Section 5) The installation and maintenance of AEDs in all public elementary, middle schools, and high schools in Tennessee will be funded through the local district Board of Education budgets. State funding can be made available for underprivileged schools currently receiving state or federal aid. Private childcare facilities or schools will be required to purchase necessary AEDs for their facilities.
Section 6) Training will be given annually to designated individuals within the school or childcare facility. Those individuals will not be liable for any civil liability for any personal injury that results from an act or omission that does not amount to willful misconduct or gross negligence.

Section 7) If AEDs are not installed or found in working condition in a childcare facility or private school, the facility will be subject to a $5,000 fine or face closure after multiple offenses.

Section 8) All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 9) This act shall take effect on August 1, 2021.
AN ACT TO LET MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS ANSWER 911 CALLS

BE IT RESOLVED/ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: All terms in this resolution shall be defined as follows:
Mental Health - your emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing.
911 call centers - place where 911 calls are answered by operators.

Section 2: This act will allow mental health experts to answer 911 calls of this kind before they are dispatched to police officers.

Section 3: If this bill were to be passed, a lot more lives would be saved. This is because police officers do not always know how to deal with certain mental health situations and do not have the training to do so, and people could die if they did not end up getting help with things like anxiety and depression. Regular 911 operators don’t know how to deal with less common situations like dealing with manic depressive people. Because of the pandemic, everyone is stuck inside of their homes dealing with themselves and no way to get help from friends or professionals. But, if we had 911 dispatchers who were also mental health experts, these people who are dealing with things like depression, anxiety, and many other mental health things could have someone to talk to and a possibility of their lives being saved.

Section 4: (2,520 operators averaging 20.81 p/hr = 62929.44 a year $158,582,188.80 for all employees in total so round up to $200,000,000 money given to that department 1,000-1,500 for therapist and 400-520 911 operators hours of training. 400,000,000

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect immediately after passage, the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO INCREASE THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN TENNESSEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section I: Terms used in this act, unless the context requires otherwise, shall be defined as follows:
Nuclear Power Plant - A nuclear power plant is a facility that converts atomic energy into usable power.

Section II: Currently, more than half of the state’s energy comes from nonrenewable sources such as coal and natural gas. There are 2 operational nuclear power plants providing 40% of Tennessee’s power. That can be improved.

Section III: Currently, the cost of producing the state’s residential use energy is about $40,000 USD. If Tennessee switches to more nuclear energy, the cost can be closer to $25,000 USD ($24,963).

Section IV: The cost of building a nuclear power plant is about $6.5 billion USD. This money will come from the TN Department of Energy’s budget. The power plant will pay itself off in about 10 years.

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

Section VI: This act shall take effect as soon as this bill is ratified.
An act to not have to pay income tax before turning 18

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows: A) Income Tax: Tax levied by a government directly on income, especially an annual tax on personal income. Minors: A person under the age of full legal responsibility. Under the age of 18. Taxation Without Representation:

Section 2) This bill excludes minors from paying income tax in the state of Tennessee.

Section 3) If you cash in your income tax falsely as a minor, you not only have to pay the tax back to the government, but you have to pay a $200 fine the first time, and $500 the second time, and the third time you pay an $800 fine.

Section 4) When this law is enacted, it will cause the government a loss of around 850 million. To make back this money, our committee proposes that we give 1.5% extra tax to anyone's household income that is over 15 million dollars annually, and an extra 3.5% for anyone that makes over 500,000 million dollars.

Section 5) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6) All W-2 forms in the state of Tennessee should be altered with a checkmark box that asks if you are under 18. The employer and employee will be held responsible for checking the accuracy of the information. If W-2 information is false, then both the Employer and Employee will be held accountable.

Section 7) All minors will be responsible for filing for a tax refund during a two-month block at the end of the year. If the majority of the work year is spent as a minor, the employee may cash in for a 100% tax refund as a minor.

Section 8) This act shall take effect on January 1, 2023.
AN ACT TO REQUIRE A YEARLY DRIVER’S SAFETY TALK IN HIGH SCHOOL

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms used in this bill are defined as follows:
   a) Drivers Education is a course of study for high school students that
      teaches the techniques of driving a vehicle, along with basic vehicle
      maintenance, safety precautions, and traffic regulations and laws.

Section 2: Tennessee traffic accident deaths have been rising since 2019,
   and in 2020, there were 175,063 traffic accidents, and 42,371 of those traffic
   accidents caused injuries.

Section 3: Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death worldwide for
   people aged 15-29. Yearly, 1.35 million people die from car accidents around
   the world. In Tennessee, 1,200 people died due to traffic accidents in 2020.

Section 4: Simple safety precautions taught in drivers education helps to
   prevent traffic accidents and fatalities caused by these accidents.

Section 5: Drivers education is proven to reduce fatalities and traffic accidents.
   Wearing a seatbelt while in a moving car reduces the risk of death by 45%. Students
   who attend driver’s education are 24% less likely to get in a fatal car crash, 16%
   less likely to get in an accident, and 75% less likely to get a traffic ticket.

Section 6: This act would send a speaker to each school in Tennessee once a
   year, informing high schoolers of safety precautions for driving. Five
   speakers will be hired.

Section 7: The total cost for this bill is approximately $506,160.
   a) Fee for one $720 session for each of the 703 high schools in Tennessee.
   b) This cost is feasible as it is 0.009% of the $5.6 billion 2021 K-12
      education budget.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This act shall take effect August 1, 2021, the public welfare
   requiring it.
An Act to Ban Vaccine Passports

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:
Vaccine Passport- A passport to prove a person has been vaccinated, giving that person more freedom to gather in public places and travel.
Ban- To prohibit, forbid, or bar; interdict.
COVID-19- An acute respiratory illness in humans caused by a coronavirus, capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death, especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions.

Section 2: The concept of a “Vaccine passport” has recently been introduced by legislators as a means of identifying those citizens who have been fully vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. While the federal government is not able to enforce a mandatory vaccination, discussion has been heard of opening up societal privileges for those who have been vaccinated. Possible usages included the ability to travel or to patronize certain businesses or events.

Section 3: While a vaccine passport would be a helpful tool to identify vaccinated populations, the idea that a private citizen should have to divulge their personal health information to certain businesses for access to services, is an infringement on their right to privacy.

Section 4: The Vaccine Passports are unconstitutional because they interfere with HIPAA. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules are the main Federal laws that protect the patient’s health information. The Privacy Rule gives patients rights with respect to their health information. The Privacy Rule also sets limits on how personal health information can be used and shared with others. The Security Rule sets rules for how a patient’s health
information must be kept secure with administrative, technical, and physical safeguards.

Section 5: If enacted, this bill will prohibit the use of vaccine passports in the State of Tennessee.

Section 6: This bill would have minimal financial cost to the state of TN.

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

Section 8: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2022.
An Act To Raise The Fine For Animal Cruelty

Section 1:
There is a growing problem of animal cruelty in our state. It is estimated that there are between 2,000-9,000 new cases of animal abuse every year. Leaving about 250,000 animals to fall victim every year. This needs to change.

Section 2:
We propose raising the current fine for an offence to $1500 dollars and raising the maximum jail time to 24 months in jail depending on the severity of the case. This will not only bring in more revenue to the state but will also further discourage repeat offenders.

Section 3:
This will cost the state only the amount of money that it will require to possibly house the inmates for an extra six months.
An Act to Amend Act 4-1-412; The Tennessee Heritage Protection Act

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA youth legislature:

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

a) Memorial(s) - any structure such as a fountain, statue, bust, or sculpture in a public space.

b) Public space - Land belonging to individual cities and/or the state.

c) Waiver - the act of abandoning a known right.

d) Petition - a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority with respect to a particular cause.

e) Commission - bring something into working condition.

f) Property - the amount of land designated specifically for individual memorials.

g) Bust - a sculpture of a person’s head, shoulders, and chest.

Section 2: During 2020 there were over 38 statues torn down and as political and social unrest continue, it is likely that this number will rise. Right now, there are only preventative measures in place when dealing with the unauthorized dismantling and/or destruction of public monuments; there are no official punishments. The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that there is a sufficient consequence for every individual/party involved in the desecration and/or destruction of public memorials and/or monuments.

Initially, the offenders who are found guilty and held responsible for physically defacing said statue will incur a fine of no less than $1,000 and no more than $10,000. The amount of the fine will be dependent on the amount of damage done to the memorial and surrounding city and/or state property.

Charged individuals will also be responsible for property clean-up within a three-month time frame. Should clean-up not occur, charged individuals will receive an additional fine ranging between $200 to $500. Charges will continue to accrue each month the clean-up remains incomplete. If the perpetrator has committed repeat offenses, the fine range will shift up to a minimum of $5,000 with a maximum of $10,000. In the case that the prior scenario has already taken place and another offense occurs, the person in violation will face no less than three weeks in jail.

People who were involved in the tearing down of the memorial but did not physically handle it will get a fine from $200 to $500. The exact amount will
be judged by how involved the individual was. For example, if the individual
provided any of the tools used to commit the act knowing what the tools
were going to be used for, they will face a higher fine. If the perpetrator tried
to blame the deed on another person/party an additional fine anywhere from
$300 to $600 will be added to their punishment.

Section 3: The current Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (Act § 4-1-412)
protects all memorials, which include statues, parks, busts, sculptures, and
fountains. In order to transfer, remove, or do anything other than clean and
provide routine maintenance, it is necessary to petition for a waiver.
Specifically, individuals and/or groups must provide public notice of their
want for a petition on their website and in at least one newspaper. For
additional details regarding Act § 4-1-412, please refer to the Tennessee
Code Annotated.

Section 4: If amended, this bill would have minimal financial cost to the state
of Tennessee.

Section 5: This act will not require funding from the state budget but may
generate revenue resulting from fines.

Section 6: This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, or the beginning of the
fiscal year.
An Act to Create a Four-Day School Week

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act unless context requires otherwise shall be defined as follows:
A. School - an institution for educating children.
B. Depression - a mental condition characterized by feelings of severe despondency and dejection, typically also with feelings of inadequacy and guilt, often accompanied by lack of energy and disturbance of appetite and sleep.
C. Anxiety - a nervous disorder characterized by a state of excessive uneasiness and apprehension, typically with compulsive behavior or panic attacks.

Section 2: Currently, schools in Tennessee meet 5 days a week, with schedules running Monday through Friday. Student hours of engagement average 7 hours a day for academic learning with many students opting to participate in after school clubs and sports for an additional 3 hours. Consistent running of this schedule has led many Tennessee school-aged children to become depressed or express anxiety about having enough time to achieve their academic and athletic requirements.

Section 3: Research from the Center of Disease Control says 9.1% of teens have social anxiety disorder, 7.6% of teens have separation anxiety, 2.3% of teens have panic disorder, 2.2% of teens have anxiety specific to school.

Section 4: We propose a change within the Tennessee Department of Education where students would attend school Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. No classes would be held on Monday.

Section 5: Many states have experienced success from moving their school week to 4 days: districts in Ohio, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, and Oregon. Cutting back services to four days a week helps districts reduce overhead costs, particularly in the categories of building operations and maintenance, transportation and food service. Although a report from the Education Commission of the States declares the overall savings would be small (an average savings of between 0.4% and 2.5%) the difference can lead to big savings. In Duval County School District in Jacksonville, Florida, moving to a
A four-day week produced only a paltry-sounding 0.7 percent savings. But that figure translated to a budget reduction of $7 million.

Section 6: Compacting school into just 4 days a week leaves more time for kids to spend with family friends and outside interests. Teachers have more time to prepare lessons and collaborate during the day. Looking forward to a three-day weekend each week leads to greater work-life balance for teachers, which leads to improved staff morale and a positive impact on what is taught in classrooms.

Section 7: If enacted, this bill would have potential savings to the State of Tennessee in the amount of $5.5 million.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2022.
An Act to Remove Cash Bail

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:
Cash-Bail: The required amount of money, set by a judge to be paid to release someone waiting to be prosecuted from custody.
Released of their own recognizance: When someone is released without a cash-bail, and expected to come back for the trial.

Section 2) This act will remove cash-bail from the American Legal System due to the discrimination it implements on to the less financially stable sections of communities. If a person is released of their own recognizance, and does not return for their trial, they can be given a cash-bail. This is the only time cash bail is permitted.

Section 3) The act will restrict the use of cash-bail in court.

Section 4) If enacted, this bill wouldn’t require any immediate funding, though it would cut off the slight added-income given through people on bail not appearing in court.

Section 5) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6) This act shall take effect immediately upon becoming a law with public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO INITIATE A FIVE-CENT FEE ON PLASTIC BAGS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

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

a) Microplastics: (noun) extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste

Section 2: The average American family uses 1,500 single-use plastic bags per year, each for an average time of 12 minutes, but these bags take over 500 years to decompose.

Section 3: Only 1% of bags are recycled, and the rest are sent to landfills or pollute the environment, killing millions of animals each year.

Section 4: Plastic bags release harmful microplastics, which have many negative health effects on humans and animals, including cell damage and compromised immune function.

Section 5: Eight states have already placed bans or regulations on single-use plastic bags.

Section 6: If enacted, this bill will initiate a 5-cent fee per plastic bag sold in all grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and other commercial locations in Tennessee. It will incentivize customers to use reusable bags, which are widely available, rather than pay for plastic bags.

Section 7: From each sale, 2 cents will be returned to the business that supplied it, 2 cents will be donated to the Tennessee Environmental Protection Agency, and 1 cent will be reserved for administrative purposes.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act to Make Public Transportation More Accessible for Poverty Stricken Citizens

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

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

a.) Bus Card - The TN Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will issue a magnetically encoded payment card used for public transportation in the state of TN.

b.) Eligible - Having the right to do or obtain something; satisfying the appropriate conditions.

Section 2: If enacted this bill will offer people who qualify for an EBT card the option to purchase a bus card at a highly reduced cost to be used for all public transportation services in the state of Tennessee.

Section 3: Participants will receive a Bus Card every six months for the price of $10. This Bus Card will offer poverty stricken citizens the opportunity to commute to and from work, school, job interviews, and grocery stores and anywhere else they may need to go without the burden of having to use what little money is available to them on transportation. Replacement cards maybe procured at no expense from the local TN Department of Health and Human Services in person by showing a photo ID. This is the same place that distributes the EBT Cards for which the person must qualify for in order to obtain the Bus Card.

Section 4: Funds obtained by the state as payment for the Bus Cards will be redistributed to the municipalities in which the bus cards were sold to help cover the loss of revenue resulting from the increase in passengers using the new state issued cards. This money is to be earmarked for the municipal district's public transportation service.

Section 5: This project will cost the state of Tennessee nothing except the printing of Bus Cards. This act may result in a loss of revenue for local transportation agencies; however, increased movement and economic opportunities for citizens in poverty should economically benefit localities as a whole.

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

Section 7: This act shall take effect January 1st, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
RED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sponsors: Lilly Williamson, Liza Saenger, Allison Young
School: St. George's

AN ACT TO BASE PROPERTY TAX ON THE AMOUNT OF LAND OWNED

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1) Terms in this act should be defined as follows:
   a) Property tax: A tax levied on real or personal property
   b) Land: the part of the earth's surface that is not covered by water, as opposed to the sea or the air
   c) owned: the act, state, or right of possessing something
   d) Value: The monetary worth of something

Section 2) This act will base property tax on the amount of land that is owned as opposed to taxing things that are built on the land.

Section 3) The value of the land will be based on the average price of land in the state.

Section 4) This act will not require funding from the state budget but may generate revenue resulting from fines.

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

Section 6) This act will be in effect as of January 1, 2022.
AN ACT TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL WAGE SCALE OF EDUCATOR SALARIES IN TENNESSEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1:
Wage Scale - The amount of american dollars by which a salary increases annually.
Educator - Any public school teachers
Salaries - A fixed amount of money paid to a worker on a monthly or bi-weekly basis, often measured in the total amount paid to someone throughout the span of a year.

Section 2:
This bill will effectively create a set amount of money by which a public education's annual wage is by law required to increase.

Section 3:
The sum of the annual increase must add up to a minimum of $2500 per year. The money required for this increase will be delegated to the school's respective district school board by which it is then the responsibility of the School Board to ensure that said raise is enforced by the school for which the educator in question works for.

Section 4: The total amount of funding required per year in order to make this possible would be $99,609,000. The funding would come from the Tennessee lottery of education’s total amount of money made per year. This could be mitigated by further delegating government funding to the state board of education and by giving more of the annual tax budget towards said board. All thought this would not produce any money, this would greatly increase the quality of education and educator life.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect on the beginning of the next public school year
An Act to Combat Drug Addiction

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:
Addiction: a treatable chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among a person’s brain, environment, and life experience.
Rehabilitation or Rehab: The action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.

Section 2: Efforts to prevent addiction and substance use disorder in Tennessee takes many forms. From the impactful work done with young people by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions to the training and naloxone distribution performed by the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists, prevention at its essence is reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.

Section 3: Unfortunately, current programs lack the longevity and thoroughness to allow the patient to come to conquer addiction, or the treatment is difficult to access. Up to 55% of drug addicts in Tennessee have gone to jail for addiction rather than getting the help they need. Neighborhood centers focusing on addiction do as much as possible with their limited resources and locations to get victims of drug addiction the help they need as treatment.

Section 4: If enacted, this bill will open 25 new neighborhood centers in the State of Tennessee to be more prevalent in neighborhoods to offer consistent, more thorough treatment and rehabilitation in addition to the treatment that the State of Tennessee currently offers.

Section 5: The cost of each facility will average $250,000 a year in both facilities, staffing and administrative expenses. Total cost to the state of Tennessee will be $6,250,000 a year.

Section 6: Costs of running the facility will be supplemented through private insurance dedicated to clients wrestling with addiction. Blue Cross / Blue Shield and the Medi-Cal insurance offer comprehensive coverage for rehab
and treatment benefits that is comparable to all private insurance. They even cover experimental treatment and clinical trials.

Section 7: It is our hope that with additional resources, citizens struggling with addiction will be able to follow through with their therapy into complete recovery.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2022, or at the beginning of the fiscal year.
AN ACT TO BAN FRACKING IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section 1: Terms

FRACKING: the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks, boreholes, etc. so as to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas.

BAN: To make it illegal.

Section 2: Our bill will help the environment in numerous ways, including preventing the destruction of beautiful landscapes, and preventing air and water pollution by banning fracking.

Section 3: The consequences of banning fracking are a loss of jobs in Tennessee, and a possible change in the economy. Companies might have to adapt.

Section 4: This bill will not cost the government any money.

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect a year after the bill has passed to give fracking companies time to clean up and go, the public welfare requiring it.
A Resolution To Give Maternity, Miscarriage, and Stillbirth Leave Pay In The State Of Tennessee

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

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

a) Maternity Leave- The twelve week period during which a mother gives birth to or adopts a child

b) Established Business- “any activity or enterprise entered into for profit. It does not mean it is a company, a corporation, partnership, or has any such formal organization, but it can range from a street peddler to General Motors.”

Section 2) Under this act, all companies with a minimum of fifty employees in the entirety of the business will be required to pay a percentage of the employee’s pay while on maternity leave. These employees will receive 70% of their weekly pay for the first four weeks, $2,000 of this money will be paid by the Tennessee Government, and 50% of weekly pay in the last eight weeks. These payments need to be made on the women’s normal pay schedule.

In order for this program to take effect within a business, the business must have been established for a minimum of five years. During these years, a company must set aside as much as they see fit for this program to be successful within the business.

A woman is only eligible to receive funds for her first four pregnancies, excluding miscarriages and stillbirths. This act does not apply to those who are a surrogate or are planning an abortion. If a woman were to have a stillbirth or a miscarriage, she is entitled to three days of paid leave that does not tap into vacation or sick days. She will be paid the amount that she would earn on a normal work day those three days. If she wishes to have a longer leave, any extra time outside of those days will count as vacation days.

This program will help the State of Tennessee because taking a leave of absence is a period of time where a person would not otherwise receive pay. Taking a leave without pay can take a major financial toll on these women.
36 and their families during this time. By using this program, these people can
37 have more financial stability in this time of change.
38
39 Section 3) If a woman who meets the requirements is on maternity leave
40 wishes to receive funds, is denied that request, and still does not have the
41 money at the end of her leave, the company will pay 2/3 of the
42 amount she would have received up front and the remaining 1/3 over
43 the course of one year from the date the punishment takes effect. The
44 company will also pay a fine of $2,500, half of which goes to the woman and
45 the other half goes to the government.
46
47 Section 4) This act will be aired immediately on the news and the
48 government’s social media platforms. Each business will receive an email
49 from their state representative with the details of this act, its requirements,
50 and how it applies to their business.
51
52 Section 5) The money for this act will be coming from the Health and Social
53 Services portion of the budget. The companies will pay the aforementioned
54 percent of their regular pay and the government will pay $2,000 as part of
55 the funds for every woman. This act will cost $7,680 from the business for
56 one woman over the course of the twelve week period.
57
58 Section 6) All laws or parts of laws that interfere with this act are hereby
59 repealed.
60
61 Section 7) This act will take effect May 7, 2022.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE 6
An Act to Assist Public Officials to Identify Hearing Impaired Tennessee Drivers

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:

a) Hearing Impairment: a partial or total inability to hear.

Section 2: Upon passage of this act, two car decals will be issued to hearing impaired drivers on request by the driver. These decals will assist public officials (first responders, law enforcement officers, etc.) to quickly and efficiently identify Hearing Impaired Tennesseans. This will enable these public officials to better manage emergency situations involving Hearing Impaired Tennesseans.

Section 3: There will be no cost associated with this bill. The decals will be paid for by the Hearing-Impaired Tennessean at a cost of 25c per decal.

Section 4: All laws or parts of law in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 5: When signed into law, this bill will go into effect on July 1, 2021.
An Act to allow children to attend a public school of their choice.

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:
Public Schools: a school supported by public funds and only people who live in the area are able to attend.
District: an area of a country or city, especially one regarded as a distinct unit because of a particular characteristic.
Enroll: officially register as a member of an institution or a student on a course.

Section 2): This bill will allow the children of Tennessee to choose which public school they want to attend.

Section 3): Children that live in the district get the first option and choice to go to public schools in their district.

Section 4): After students that live in a district have made their school choice, students from outside of the district can come in and fill up any spaces that are left.

Section 5): Students who choose to go to a school outside of their district must provide their own transportation.

Section 6): This bill will not cost the tax payers anything.

Section 7): All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.
An Act to Increase the Amount of Guidance Counselors in Public Middle Schools in Tennessee

Be it enacted by the YMCA TENNESSEE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms used in this act are defined as follows:
Mental health- a person’s condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being
Guidance counselor- a person who gives help and advice to students about educational and personal decisions

Section 2: 50% of mental health problems begin by age 14, and the best time to fix a problem is from the very beginning.
The CDC has stated that the most common mental health issues that begin in middle schools are ADHD, anxiety, and depression.
If the counselors have fewer people to focus on, they can pay more attention to their allotted students and therefore recognize if they are struggling mentally.
If mental health issues are not dealt with, the students have a higher risk of self-harm or suicide.
The average counselor to student ratio in public middle schools in Tennessee is 1:350 and this act will lower it to 1:250.

Section 3: This act mandates all public middle schools must have a guidance counselor to student ratio of 1:250.

Section 4: This will cost approximately $9,093,270 and funding will come from the increased state education budget for 2021

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect on the August 1, 2021
An Act to Promote the Creation of Farmer’s Markets in Poverty Stricken Neighborhoods

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

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

a.) Food deserts - Poverty stricken areas with people that struggle to live on low incomes and lack proper nutrition and transportation.
b.) Farmers markets - Indoor or outdoor markets where farm products such as produce are sold to the local community at discounted rates. Local farmers and distributors are allowed to sell produce at wholesale cost without charging tax.
c.) Grocery store - A market where food and household supplies are sold.
d.) Shop owner - A person who owns and operates a shop which sells products to people.

Section 2: If enacted, this bill will give shop owners who open up farmers markets near their local food deserts an opportunity to pay no business or income taxes to the government in the 5 years after they open up their markets.

Section 3: This bill seeks to attack the growing public health crisis exacerbated by the rise of food deserts in our state’s urban areas. Families living in poverty stricken areas are left with few options to purchase healthy food, this in turn leads to health problems such as malnutrition and diabetes in our population’s poorer classes. These health problems are then passed on to our states Medicare system where healthcare costs skyrocket. This is a simple, low cost effort to combat this problem.

These businesses will offer healthier food options to their customers. This will provide a healthier lifestyle option for people living in these neighborhoods who often lack adequate transportation to access traditional grocery stores.

Section 4: The cost of this bill to the state of Tennessee will be nothing. The state will simply not tax entrepreneurs who have invested in these particular types of businesses.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
An act to make it illegal for minors to buy energy drinks

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:

Illegal - contrary to or forbidden by law, especially criminal law.

Minor - a person under the age of 18

Energy Drinks - any of various types of beverage that are considered a source of energy, especially a soft drink containing a high percentage of sugar and/or caffeine or other stimulant.

Section 2: This law will make it illegal for anyone under 18 to buy an energy drink.

Section 2: All stores and restaurants selling energy drinks should check a person’s ID before letting them buy said energy drink.

Section 3: Under this act, the penalty for selling an energy drink under the age of 18 is first a warning. If it happens again it would be a Class A Misdemeanor in Tennessee. Which is 1 year in jail and a $2,500 fine.

Section 4: This act will not require any funding from the state budget but may generate revenue resulting through fines.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately after it gets passed.
An Act To Require CoreCivic To Require It to put all of its correctional employees through proper training and Set Proper Food Standards

Be It Enacted By The Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government

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

a. CoreCivic - The Private Company That Owns Tennessee Prisons And Makes a Profit From Them

Section 2: All officers working for CoreCivic will be mandated to undergo state certified training that will be set by the Tennessee Department of Corrections. This will be done in order to combat the fact that there have been an alarming amount of reports about uncertified and sometimes abusive workers. The hiring of an unqualified worker could result in a $2,000 fine.

Section 3: Along with that, CoreCivic will also be mandated to follow food standards put in place for schools in order to make sure that they are not cutting costs on food in order to make a profit. There have been many food complaints and it is very important that we can ensure they are not cutting costs on food.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately after its passing
AN ACT TO LEGALIZE CASINO GAMBLING

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1) Terms used in this bill shall be defined as follows:
Gambling: Games of chance (Usually for money).
Casino: A public room or building where gambling games are played.

Section 2) This bill will allow casinos to operate legally in Tennessee.

Section 3) A portion of the money made will go to funding public schools.

Section 4) 0.5-1% of the money made by the casinos will be given to the Tennessee Department of Education to give to the public schools.

Section 5) One must be at least 21 to gamble.

Section 6) This bill will not require any funding from the state but in fact it will make the state a profit.

Section 7) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby repealed.

Section 8) This bill shall take effect as soon as possible upon becoming legal for casinos to operate in the state.
An Act to Add the Intermediate Unrestricted Drivers Licence to E-Services

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:

Intermediate Unrestricted Driver's License - The driver's licence issued by the state most often at the age of 17 that removes many of the restrictions put in place by the Restricted Licence.

Intermediate Restricted Drivers Licence - The driver's licence issued by the state most often at the age of 16 that approves a resident's ability to drive.

E-Services - services offered by the DMV through the internet

DMV - (Driving and Motor Vehicles) The division of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security that issues driver's licenses.

Section 2: To obtain a driver's license in the State of Tennessee, a resident must pass a series of knowledge tests and road tests. Unless the driver has been granted a hardship license, the typical teen driver will obtain a driver's permit at age 15 and an Intermediate Restricted Drivers Licence at the age of 16. At this point, the driver is accountable for any tickets or moving violations that occur while they are driving and all penalties are added to their driving record.

Section 3: With each of the aforementioned licenses, the applicant must make a physical trip to their local DMV for testing. Testing often takes hours of waiting in crowded establishments to be seen. Wait times for scheduled tests can range up to a month.

Section 4: Currently, 17 year-old drivers are eligible for the Intermediate Unrestricted Driver's Licence, but must visit a DMV to obtain the licence. After waiting in line, the driver has their record checked and, if cleared, is issued the new licence. No additional knowledge tests or road tests are administered.

Section 5: The Intermediate Unrestricted Drivers Licence affirms that the bearer is at least 17 years-old and that they have held an Intermediate Restricted License for one year. In addition, they cannot have accumulated
Section 6. Current E services include: Driver application, renewal, duplicate licences, scheduling and many other services. These services have been used for many years and have helped reduce time spent at the DMV.

Section 7: If enacted, this act would add the request for an Intermediate Unrestricted Drivers Licence to the services offered over the internet. The checking of a driver's record is something that can be determined online and does not require the physical presence of the driver at a DMV.

Section 8: If enacted, this bill will potentially reduce the DMV crowding and wait times.

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

Section 10: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2022.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SENATE
COMMITTEE 1
An Act to Ban the Usage of Execution by Electrocution in Tennessee

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.
An act to make the penalty for driving on a suspended license

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:
Driver’s Licence- A document that permits you to drive.

Section 2: The new solution to the problem that we have is called the License Redemption Act. This act brings more money into businesses and also gives suspended license drivers a chance to redeem themselves to get a license.

Section 3: If you don’t have a license and the police pull you over and you don’t have one, they will take you to the police station and tow your car over there and you will have to sign papers to go take a driver’s license test again. If you refuse to do it you will have to serve a month in jail while doing community service. Then you would get your license back and have to pay a 150$ fine. If you accept you will take a driver’s license test and if you pass, you will be offered a job to pay off the 150$ fine. When you pay it off, you will be able to keep the job. If you fail that test, you will be offered another chance to pass it. If you still fail, you will be sent to community service to get your license back and have to pay the 150$ fine. This Act is fair and just to everyone. This offers redemption to anyone and those who refuse will be served justice for endangerment.

Section 4: This Bill will be funded 300,000$ through the senators of Tennessee budget.

Section 5: The law prior to this bill will be repealed and replaced with this one.

Section 6: This act will take place on May 30, 2022, the public welfare will be requiring it.
BSB/1-3

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

Sponsors: John Bush
School: Grace-St. Lukes

AN ACT TO SAVE AMERICAN RETIREMENT AND CREATE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY WEALTH FOR ALL AMERICANS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: All terms in this resolution shall be defined as follows:
Wealth: Savings plus assets minus debt
Poverty: A state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living
Investment: An asset acquired with the goal of generating income or appreciation
Inflation: A general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money.
Index funds: A portfolio of stocks designed to mimic the composition and performance of a financial market index

Section 2: Funds of $3,375 would be invested at birth in zero-cost equity index funds; be prohibited from withdrawal until retirement, would compound tax-free for 65 years or more and would provide retirement assets of more than $500,000 thousand dollars at age 65. These assets would be distributed month to month in 3,300 packages. This program will replace social security.

Section 3: This program would have a high upfront cost

Section 4: 273 million 275 thousand dollars or 1.5 percent of the health and social services budget of Tennessee upfront that will give us a return of 40 billion 499 million 959 hundred 500 dollars

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect on January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act to Require all Public Schools in Tennessee to Have a Permanent School Resource Officer

Section 1: Terms in this act are as follows:
A. School Resource Officer- sworn law enforcement officers responsible for safety and crime prevention within a school.
B. SRO- the acronym for School Resource Officer
C. Public School- a school supported by public funds, including charter schools.

Section 2: All public schools need an active SRO as a permanent position.

Section 3: This will increase the health, safety, and education of public-school students across the state.

Section 4: This act will be supervised by the Tennessee Department of Education through yearly reports.

Section 5: If districts are not in compliance with this act, school's safety funding can be taken away at the discretion of the TDE.

Section 6: $30,000,000 will be set aside in the budget to fund this act.

Section 7: The state will pay 25% of the salary for the ¾ of the first year of each new SRO.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This law will take effect at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.
AN ACT TO HAVE REGISTRATION FOR YOUR FIREARM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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

a) Firearm - A portable projectile weapon of which works by the firing pin opening with a spring hitting a cap in the back of a bullet/projectile when that happens a loud noise is emitted and there is a muzzle flash.

b) Registration - the action or process of registering or of being registered.

c) Repealed - to rescind or annul by authoritative act.

Section 2: This act will require those who purchase a gun to register their firearm with the government with a card stating this is their gun and they bought it legally. This card will be issued and administered/printed by all gun stores, shooting ranges, and police stations.

Section 3: The penalty for not having registration for your firearm is $800. Another penalty is for someone who tries to print their own registration cards because there will be a chip in the real one that states it is real. All officers will have a chip scanner with them at all times. Their time would be 3 years in jail with a $750 fine.

Section 4: The cost would be the printing of the cards themselves. If someone is trying to get a card there will probably be a 1-5 day delay and a paper registration will be used in that time.

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

Section 6: This law should take effect in 1-2 months so there are enough cards printed and the word is spread through news, media, and people, through police programs and news casts.
AN ACT TO COUNTER ANIMAL CRUELTY

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:
Abuse: cruel and violent treatment of a person or animal.
Agriculture: Plant and livestock production is the study, craft, and practice of agriculture. Agriculture was a key factor in the growth of sedentary human society, as it allowed people to live in cities by creating food surpluses from domesticated species.
FSIS: Food Safety and Inspection Service

Section 2) Animals being tested on for products will be completely halted. Testing products, including testing covid vaccines, and oxycontin, on animals have been rendered unnecessary by scientists and cause harm to animals.

Section 3) Agricultural industries must be inspected annually by appointed officials from the FSIS. This is to assure that the owners aren’t abusing or unethically handling their animals, such as having rings shot through pigs’ noses.

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

Section 5) This act will take effect June 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act to gradually increase Minimum Wage by 50 cents a year for 6 years.

Being enacted by gradually increasing the Minimum Wage by 50 cents a year for 6 years.

Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:
Minimum Wage: The lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement (such as one with a labor union)

Section 2)
This bill will increase the minimum wage 50 cents for six years

Section 3)
The minimum wage will max out at $10.25 in six years.

Section 4)
This act will cost nothing and benefit the government because the cost of the product will cost more making the tax cost more.

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

Section 6)
This bill shall take place on January 1st, 2022.
An Act to Combat Teen Anxiety and Depression in Teens

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:

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2:
In March of 2020, students were sent home from public schools to complete their school year remotely. While the academic learning gap widened and athletic opportunities waned, a darker and more sinister trend took hold in the lives of our youth, that of increased teen anxiety and depression.

Section 3:
One in five Tennessee kids have expressed mental health issues, yet less than half have received treatment or support. In Tennessee, self-harm is the 2nd leading cause of death between 10 and 17 year olds. There has been a 24% increase for the self-harm rate in Tennessee since 2015 with teen girls 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.

Section 4:
Sources of anxiety and depression causing recent self-harm acts stem from the following: lack of acknowledgment during the pandemic, not being able to attend school and the benefits that come with it, not being able to play sports, lack of activeness, little to no affection and acknowledgement in the
home, not being able to meet people due to the virus, and all other negative restrictions that the pandemic has applied on the youth of Tennessee.

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

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

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

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

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

Section 10:
This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2021, or at the beginning of the fiscal year.
An Act to Ensure A Yearly Fund for Farmers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

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

a.) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program: A program given by the USDA to help give a greater share towards farming operations and to help improve USDA pandemic assistance.

b.) USDA: USDA is an abbreviation for United States Department of Agriculture.

c.) Certified farms: Farms that mark their products with their certified program label.

Section 2: All schools must require a yearly donation from students and faculty towards this act.

Section 3: The USDA will be asked to help participate in this and help increase the number of volunteers as well.

Section 4: The amount of money that we need would be 250K to distribute $10,000 towards the 25 certified farms within TN.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect on July 1st, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE 2
An Act To Require All Businesses In Tennessee To Provide Paid Maternity Leave

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1) Terms used in this act are defined as follows:
Paid Maternity Leave- A period when a woman is legally absent from work before and after she has a baby, and during which she is paid.

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

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

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

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

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

Section 7) This act shall be enacted by the State of Tennessee as soon as the bill is passed.
AN ACT TO RAISE FINES FOR LITTERING

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:

a.) Littering - make (a place) untidy with rubbish or a large number of objects left lying about.
b.) Fine- punish (someone) by making them pay a sum of money, typically as a penalty for breaking the law.

Section 2.) This bill will raise the max fine for littering from $2,500 to $5,000.

Section 3.) Under this bill, the penalty for littering will result in a fine from $100-$5,000.

Section 4.) This act will not require funding from the state budget but may generate revenue resulting from fines.

Section 5.) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6.) This act shall take effect immediately upon becoming a law with public welfare requiring it.
An act to increase the state minimum wage from 7.25$ to 12.00$ and to offer help to small businesses

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA youth in government

Section 1: This act requires For all businesses in Tennessee to require a 12.00$ minimum wage.

Section 2: This act requires the Tennessee government to give financial support to business.

Section 3: This will cost 1,500,000 and come from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Section 4: this act requires the creation of a webpage that helps businesses get the financial support they need.

Section 5: this act requires that if law is disobeyed without reason (if the businesses has the available funds to) punishment may vary from 5000$ to 1000$ per offense.

Section 6: this act requires that any businesses with 1 to 50 employees will get 5% tax credits.

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

Section 8: this act shall take effect August, 1, 2021.
An act to require background checks for all private gun sales and transfers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

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

a.) Private Gun Seller- A person who is not a licensed gun dealer that sells guns.
b.) Background Check-A process used by federally licensed gun dealers to verify that an individual is who they claim to be, as well as checking and confirming the validity of someone's criminal record to make sure that they can legally buy a gun.
c.) Gun- a weapon incorporating a metal tube from which bullets, shells, or other missiles are propelled by explosive force, typically making a characteristic loud, sharp noise.
d.) Firearm- a rifle, pistol, or other portable gun
e.) Gun Transfer- the transfer of a gun from an unlicensed individual residing in one state to another unlicensed individual residing in the same state.
f.) NICS- National Instant Criminal Background Check System
g.) TBI- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
h.) ATF- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) is the federal agency primarily responsible for administering and enforcing the criminal and regulatory provisions of the federal laws pertaining to destructive devices (bombs), explosives, and arson.
i.) ATF Form- a form prescribed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, required to be completed when a person proposes to purchase a gun from a gun seller

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

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

Section 4: Sellers will be unable to sell guns if they violate this act.
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.
AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL TENNESSEE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO HAVE AN ANTI-CYBER BULLYING PROGRAM IN EFFECT

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:

a) Public School: a school supported by public funds.
b) Private School: a school supported by a private organization or private individuals rather than by the government. A school supported wholly by the payment of fees.
c) Cyber bullying: described as intentional harm inflicted through electronic media, affects almost half of all U.S. teens. It is often motivated by prejudice and hate, and some of the most serious cases of cyber bullying are the result of bias based on the target’s race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and the like. Whether cyber bullying is related to identity-based group membership, however, or more universal characteristics such as appearance or social status, online social cruelty can produce devastating consequences for the targets and may be a precursor to more destructive behavior, including involvement in hate groups and bias-related violence.
d) Penalty: a punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract.

Section 2: If enacted this bill shall require all schools in the State of Tennessee to have an anti-cyber bullying program in effect. The program should include interactive workshops and the creation of guidelines for dealing with cyber bullying in a practical and comprehensive manner.

Section 3: The penalty for noncompliance shall be $2,000. Offenders will be reported to the Tennessee Board of Education.

Section 4: This bill shall be funded through the penalties from schools that do not comply.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect July 1, 2021 the public welfare requiring it.
An act to prevent law enforcement from unreasonable searches of vehicles

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

Law enforcement— the activity of some members of government who act in an organized manner to enforce the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing people who violate the rules and norms governing that society.

Motor Vehicles— Any vehicle that you need a license to drive

Section 2: Under this bill law enforcement would only be able to search a vehicle if the person is being arrested.

Section 3: This bill will not cost the taxpayers anything.

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

Section 5: We want this bill to be accessed as soon as possible, or right when it is published from the law enforcement.
An act to require stores to put the total price on price tags

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

- Total price: price of sales item and tax added together
- Price tag: the tag that has the cost of item
- Sales tax: 9.25% of the product’s price
- Producer: Company that produces the goods
- Local business: a business with stores owned and operated solely in the state of Tennessee

Section 2: Stores will be required to place the total price of a good on the shelf where a good is sold

Section 3: The producers of these goods will not be required to change price tags on the goods since these can be shipped statewide

Section 4: Stores will be fined $50,000 for the first infraction of this bill, and this price will increase by $5,000 for each offense. Local businesses will not be held to the same standard, local businesses will be fined $5000 for the first infraction, and this price will increase by $500 for each offence

Section 5: Inspections will be conducted annually by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Section 6: Will only cost money to the store, because they will have to print the price tags

Section 7: All laws and parts of laws in conflict of this bill will hereby be repealed

Section 8: This act shall take effect July 1, 2021, to give stores time to adjust
An Act to Fine Smoking in Vehicles While Driving

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:
- Graduated fine - A financial penalty that increases with every infraction
- Vehicle - any car, truck, or motor vehicle

Section 2: At last polling, 19.9% of Tennesseans smoke tobacco. That is approximately 1,058,300 people. With the growing restrictions on smoking in public spaces, smokers are increasingly choosing to smoke in their cars.

Section 3: It is the consensus of most driving instructors that hand positioning on the steering wheel is most important as it leads to stability and control of the vehicle. When airbags were introduced, the correct position on the wheel became known as 10 and 2, as it refers to placement on a clock. Both hands in these positions became regarded as the best and safest plan. Smoking, obviously, would require one hand to be of the wheel during the lighting and smoking and disposal of a cigarette.

Section 4: Current law does not prohibit the use of tobacco products while driving a vehicle. For a driver to engage in smoking while driving, the driver is restricted to the use of one hand while steering. The driver’s attention is partially diverted to avoiding being burned or dropping ash inside the vehicle. This lack of attention and improper handling of the vehicle is an obvious threat to the driver and the other vehicles on the road.

Section 4: If enacted, this bill would make it a Class C misdemeanor to smoke inside a vehicle while operating the vehicle. The misdemeanor will carry a fine of $25 for the first offense and a graduated scale of penalties for each additional conviction. $50 / second offense. $75 / third offense.

Section 5: If enacted, the bill will potentially raise $8 million in fines each year.

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

Section 7: This proposed act will take effect July 1, 2022
AN ACT TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN TENNESSEE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section I: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:
Minimum Wage - the lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement
Inflation - a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money
SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency

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

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

Section IV: Increasing the minimum wage would raise the income of about 560,000 workers in Tennessee. It will also lower the amount the state spends on social safety net programs such as SNAP and reduce economic inequality, which will lead to economic growth. Other states that have raised their
minimum wage in the past years have seen great benefits, and Tennessee
will likely see similar outcomes.
Section V: This act has no fiscal impact.
Section VI: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby
repealed.
Section VII: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, on which the
minimum wage will be raised to seven dollars and fifty cents. The minimum
wage will continue to increase by fifty cents each year on the first of January
until 2027, in which the minimum wage will reach ten dollars per hour.
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE 3
An Act to Restrict the Distribution of Disability Passes and Disability Fraud.

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:
Disability-: a physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions.

Section 2: Currently, Tennessee residents have to take a test that consists of five questions to qualify as being disabled. If you have enough work to qualify for disability benefits, SSA.gov uses a step-by-step process involving five questions to determine if you are disabled. The five questions are: based on work, health and conditions.

Section 3: The disability applicants are given a questionnaire that consists of 5 questions.

Section 4: SSA considers Tennessee residents medical conditions, age, education, past work experience, and any transferable skills they may have. If applicants can’t do other work, the SSA will decide if they are disabled. If Tennessee residents can do other work, the SSA decides that the applicant doesn’t have a qualifying disability and their claim will be denied.

Section 5: Currently, 45-50% of disability applicants will receive benefits, whether they have been confirmed by a certified physician as disabled or not. The potential for abuse is abundantly clear.
Section 6: In enacted, this act would require doctors to verify the patient’s disabilities. All tests to establish eligibility for state funds should be factual and not opinion-based. Specialists would be charged with making evaluations on an applicants disability independently, but in consideration of, the opinions expressed in the applicants questionnaire.

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

Section 8: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2022.
AN ACT TO MAKE THE GAY PANIC DEFENSE ILLEGAL IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature:

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

a) LBGTQ+- an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.

b) Gay/Trans Panic Defense - a legal tactic which claims that a victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity not only explains-but excuses-a loss of self-control by the perpetrator.

c) Perpetrator- a person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act.

d) Hate crime- a crime, typically one involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other grounds.

Section 2: The Gay Panic Defense will be revoked within the state of Tennessee for the mental and physical safety of the LGBTQ+ community.

Section 3: The passing of this bill will prevent a perpetrator in Tennessee from using the Gay Panic Defense to excuse their actions based off of the victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity (or lack therof). Diminished capacity is inarguably not a defense for a clear hate crime, and should not be treated as such. Additionally, self defense cannot be an argument when torture and unnecessary force is used. The melanin in a woman’s skin should not cause her death, nor her gender, nor should who she was born to love. Through this action, discrimination in the eyes of the law will also be reduced based on arbitrary conditions outside of the case and prevent personal bias from entering Tennessee courts.

Section 4: The enactment of the Gay Panic Defense will not require monetary gain or loss by any individual party.

Section 5: The Gay Panic Defense Law is hereby enacted.

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

Section 7: This bill shall take effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO EDUCATE TENNESSEE’S SENIOR CITIZENS IN TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

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

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

b) Technology includes desktop computers, laptops, cellular phones, and tablets, and these products’ systems.

Section 2: If enacted, this bill will propose technology classes for Tennessee’s senior citizens.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 8: Tennessee’s 2020 overall education budget is $10.6 billion.

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

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

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

Section 12: This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act to Regulate and Purify Water in Drinking Sources in Tennessee

Be it enacted by the 2021 YMCA Youth in Government

Section I: Terms used in this act shall be defined as followed:
- Pollutant - a substance that pollutes something, especially water or the atmosphere.
- Contamination - the action or state of making or being made impure by polluting or poisoning.

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

Section III: We believe the best course of action is to create reservoirs around Tennessee that will not only tackle the problem of water contamination but will also boost our economy and lower the unemployment rate by creating new jobs for residents. Three reservoirs will be implemented
and built around the state. The reservoirs will test, purify, and supply pure, clean water. The reservoirs will purify water through natural purification through sedimentation of particles, photolysis, and substance degradation. Therefore, not only will the reservoirs make the water drinkable for humans, but they will also purify the water for all aquatic wildlife in our lakes and rivers. The benefits of reservoirs are immense.

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

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

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

Section VII: This act will take effect as soon as possible after ratification, in addition to public approval.
An Act to Prohibit Gay and Trans Panic Defense

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government

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

a.) Gay and Trans Panic Defense - a legal tactic used in part from the defendant to justify their violent action(s) taken against the victim that renders the victim’s gender identity and/or sexual orientation as the main stimulant of the defendant’s actions

b.) Defense of Insanity/Diminished Capacity - a defense within the Gay and Trans Panic Defense that states the defendant that committed the crime or violent action(s) was momentarily impaired from thinking logically upon knowing the victim’s gender identity and/or sexual orientation

c.) Defense of Provocation - a defense within the Gay and Trans Panic Defense that the advancement of a non-violent sexual action from the victim provoked the defendant to act violently

d.) Defense of Self-Defense - a defense within the Gay and Trans Panic Defense that the sexual orientation and/or the gender identity made the defendant feel threatened and believe the victim would have caused bodily harm

Section 2: If enacted this bill will prohibit any reference or use of the Gay and Trans Panic Defense in any court in the State of Tennessee involving criminal trial or procedures. Courts dealing with criminal trials or procedures must require that no bias be extended to an individual after learning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Furthermore, defendants' comments or justifications based on bias of the victims sexual orientation/gender identity will be rejected and not seen as reliable to affect the jury’s opinion or verdict. Any tactical defense recognised as falling under Gay and Trans Defense (refer to section 1) used by the defendant will not be recognised as sufficient reasoning for the violent crime inflicted upon the victim and should not impact the sentence given to the defendant in any way.

Section 3: On the date of March 31, 2021, Virginia outlawed the use of gay/trans panic defense to lessen an offender’s sentence or justify their violence. This act shall apply to all aspects of the Gay and Trans Panic Defense that uses the following defense tactics defined in section 1: Defense

Section 4: This bill has no effect upon the budget of the state of TN.

Section 5: Any usage of the Gay and Trans Panic Defense in a court will be ruled as unjustifiable due to invalidity with no exceptions.

Section 6: This act shall take effect immediately upon passage, the public welfare requiring it.
An act for teachers to be reimbursed for spending money on school supplies for students.

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA youth in Government

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

a) Teacher - a person who teaches, especially in a school. Any public school adult who teaches in the state of Tennessee.

b) School Supplies - School supply means an item commonly used by a student in a course of study.

c) Reimbursement - A repayment of something someone has lost like a loan.

d) Student - A child who is learning from the teacher in the state of Tennessee.

Section 2) Any public school teachers who spend their own money on school supplies will be reimbursed. For this to happen then the teacher must have the receipt on the supplies and show it to the state in order to be reimbursed. The teacher would get the money from the state of Tennessee.

Section 3) The penalty of this law is if the teacher doesn’t get reimbursed then the government would get fined by the teacher for not getting reimbursed.

Section 4) The cost of this varies from how much the teacher spends on the supplies. If the teacher spends a lot of money on something then they should be reimbursed that amount.

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

Section 6) This act shall take effect August 1, 2021 the public welfare requiring it.
A RESOLUTION TO END LOUD NOISE CREATED BY CARS

BE IT RESOLVED/ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: All terms in this resolution shall be defined as follows:
Muffler- an object to modify the sound output of a vehicle

Section 2: A motorized vehicle can not produce more than 110 db 6 inches away from the Muffler. You will get 1 ticket and after the 2nd ticket any muffler attached non permanently to a vehicle will be seized if it creates more than 110db. If attached permanently it will be towed to a shop of the owners choice.

Section 3: Less street racing, less noise pollution, public safety,

Section 4: This bill will cost $214,764.74.

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect January 1st, the public welfare requiring it.
An act to prohibit faculty and staff of an educational establishment from searching and seizing any private property that belongs to a student, unless the faculty and staff have reason to believe someone is in immediate danger.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1) Terms in this bill are defined as follows:

a) Private Property: Personal electronic devices, which are considered owned by student(s), backpacks/any bag brought on campus by student(s), the student(s)’ person, land or belongings owned by a person or group, and kept for their exclusive use.
b) School campuses: the grounds, often including the buildings, of a college, university, or school.
c) Educational establishments: property where students go to learn/compete/participate in activities or sports.
d) Faculty and staff: anyone that works in/with educational establishments (including coaches).
e) Immediate danger: the imminent danger of physical violence or aggression towards self or others, which is likely to cause serious physical harm.
f) Student(s): a person who is studying at a school or college, denoting someone who is studying in order to enter a particular profession, a person who takes an interest in a particular subject.

Section 2) This bill will prohibit unreasonable search and seizures of student’s/athlete’s property.

Section 3) Faculty and staff will need permission from the students, parents, or legal guardian.

Section 4) Under this bill, on the first offense, the faculty/staff member will have a mandatory meeting with the student/athlete involved, parent/guardian of the student/athlete, and the superintendent. On the second offense, the faculty/staff member will have a three-day unpaid suspension. On the third offense, the faculty/staff member’s job will be terminated.
Section 5) This bill will require a note on the faculty/staff member’s job description and signs clarifying this bill in every room in the school.

Section 6) This bill will require no funding from Tennessee taxpayers/state government, but it will be up to the educational establishments to make the signs.

Section 7) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 8) This act will take effect upon the start of the upcoming school year.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SENATE
COMMITTEE 4
Section I: Terms used in this act are defined as follows:
A) STEM - an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math. These programs could include but are not limited to: math teams, robotics programs, and science fairs.

Section II: This bill will require all public high schools to offer an after-school STEM activity. These activities will be optional and enriching to the students.

Section III: Funding for this bill will require 1 million dollars from the education budget. This money will be distributed proportionally to the schools based on the number of students.

Section IV: The Tennessee department of education would be responsible for making sure all public high schools are in compliance with these laws.

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

Section VI: This bill will take effect for the 2021 - 2022 school year.
AN ACT TO EXTEND THE DEER HUNTING SEASON

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

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

a. Deer hunting season- The span of time from November 21 to January 3 in which deer are allowed to be killed on public land by people 21 years or older using guns, muzzleloaders, or bows.

b. Muzzleloaders: A firearm in which the projectile is loaded into the muzzle of the gun.

Section 2: Deer cause a little over 1 billion dollars in property damage nationwide a year and kill 175 to 200 people in deer related accidents. In 2015, deer caused 31,408 car accidents across the state of Tennessee. Currently, a hunter can only kill 2 bucks and 5 doe. The hunting season in Tennessee is from November 21 to January 3.

Section 3: If this act is passed, it will increase the amount of buck that can be killed in the state of Tennessee to 4 and the amount of doe that can be killed to 7. The bill will also have the Tennessee deer season start two weeks early (November 7) and end two weeks later than normal (January 17).

Section 4: This addition of this act will cost the Tennessee government no money, and the government can increase the price of deer hunting permits from $1,976 to $2,726 due to the increased hunting period.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect July 1, 2021, or the beginning of the fiscal year.
An Act to Provide Vocational Training for Qualified Prisoners

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:

a) Qualified Prisoner: An inmate who is serving a term of at least 5 years for a non-violent offense. An inmate with positive behavior and a clean disciplinary record after serving at least 1 year of their term.

b) Vocational Training: training for a specific vocation in industry or agriculture or trade.

Section 2: If enacted, this bill will enable qualified prisoners in the State of Tennessee to receive the vocational training of their choice while incarcerated.

Section 3: Vocational training will enable prisoners to learn job skills so that they will be employable upon release from prison.

Section 4: A maximum of 250 prisoners statewide may be enrolled in this program at onetime.

Section 5: Funding for this bill will come from government grants and donations from private corporations.

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

Section 7: This act shall take effect July 1, 2021 the public welfare requiring it
An act to accept the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansion in Order to Kickstart rural development

Be it Enacted by The Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government.

Section 1: Definitions: ACA stands for the Affordable Care Act, a piece of legislation passed during the Obama administration. Subsidies: Most times subsidies are mentioned they will be referring to Health Care subsidies which can be defined as money given to assist in the payment of health insurance. Premiums: the amount paid for an insurance policy. Medicaid: A program that provides healthcare coverage to many americans. Medicaid expansion: Medicaid expansion is a program allowed by the ACA that expands the range of those eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Section 2: The state of Tennessee is to accept all parts of the Federal Government's ACA (Medicaid) expansion. Coverage is to be expanded as specified by ACA.

Section 3: Studies show that it would increase the number of Tennessee residents covered by Medicaid. This would in turn increase the affordability of health care and increase the utilization of healthcare services.

Section 4: Furthermore ACA expansion would help more high risk and underrepresented groups. To be more specific, ACA expanded Medicaid to cover all Adults up to 138% of the Federal poverty level ($17,609 for 2020). This would insure 226,200 uninsured adults. That is 38% of Tennessee's uninsured nonelderly adult population. This would greatly benefit childless adults who were previously in the minority when it comes to the insured population. This would also have implications in the lives of the elderly who are at higher risk of health conditions. On top of that the elderly have the least money to pay out of pocket. To more specific 19% of those covered by this expansion will be elderly.

Section 5: Moreover this would help stimulate Tennessee’s rural economies. In Tennessee over half of our counties are considered to be medically underserved. This can be attributed to the mass closure of rural hospitals. In the recent decade a total of 14 rural hospitals have been closed in
This means that many Tennesseans are living in areas without nearby hospitals. This means that long commutes must be made in the case of an emergency which increases the risk of further injury and even death. This also increases the rates of infant mortality in completely preventable circumstances. ACA medicaid expansion has been shown to reduce rural regression and even stimulate economic growth by giving states the resources they need to expand their healthcare infrastructure. ACA expansion as mentioned earlier will increase usage of medicare which puts more money into clinics and hospitals.

Section 6: Finally, the state of Tennessee would reduce their healthcare expenses. Under the current medicaid plan 34 cents out of every dollar is being paid by the state. Alternatively the state could pay ten cents out of every dollar under ACA expansion. This means that Tennessee would save twenty-four cents out of every dollar spent on healthcare.

Section 7: All laws or parts of laws contradicting this are hereby repealed this bill to be effective August, 12, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS A DOCTOR MAY SUPERVISE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows: (a) Nurse Practitioner - A higher trained nurse who is qualified to treat certain medical conditions but is required to be overseen by a doctor on a percentage of their patients. (b) Oversee - A doctor is required to be available at all times to consult on cases outside the defined area of the standard of care protocols adopted by the clinic/physician collaboration; and thoroughly review the care rendered on a number of patients, including patient history, current complaints, test results, nurse practitioner protocols, performance, and outcomes. (c) Medical facility - A place where medical practices are conducted on humans. (d) Blind Review - Employees from the state will choose a time and date within business hours to examine a physician’s performance without the medical facility knowing when to prevent unfair or untrue performance results. e) Physician - a medically trained person qualified to practice medicine, also known as a doctor.

Section 2: A single physician may only oversee four (4) nurse practitioners simultaneously to prevent patient overload and inadequate supervisory services to the newly established and rapidly expanding independent roles of nurse practitioners. The purpose is to discourage nurse practitioners from inadvertently overstepping educational, legal, and experience boundaries. In addition, to encourage supervisory physicians to render greater quality supervision and utilization of their higher training, experience, and education for patients who need the benefit of those skills, resulting in safer, better care in our communities.

Section 3: A physician must oversee at least 25% of a nurse practitioner’s annual patients including but not limited to reviewing the chart, chief complaint, current medications, test results, and compliance with the policies, procedures, and protocols agreed upon in the manual established in the physician/nurse practitioner’s clinic, and the care rendered by the nurse practitioner. The physician may not procure a rubber-stamping or signature replicating device and must personally affix his or her signature on each file.
Section 4: Post-review, the physician must keep a log of the cases reviewed that is available to State Inspectors citing the name of the patient, the chief complaint, and a summary of the care rendered and denoting whether the care rendered was appropriate and corrective measures that need to be taken. The physician must debrief the nurse practitioner on a minimum of three cases per month in an After-Action Review, discussing specifically the care approach, alternatives if available, and improvements for potentially better outcomes.

Section 5: Every year, Employees from the state will conduct two (2) blind reviews on-site at a nurse practitioner facility to ensure supervising physicians and nurse practitioners are in compliance.

Section 6: Every three (3) months, supervising physicians will be required to submit a single written report to the State of Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners summarizing the performance of every Nurse Practitioner under their supervision.

Section 7: These rules will be enforced by the Board of Medical Examiners in the state of Tennessee and if there is a failure to comply, the medical facility will be subject to a $10,000 (Ten thousand dollars) fine, The supervising physician will be fined 15,000 and a suspension of supervisory duties for twelve (12) months.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This act shall take effect August 1, 2022.
An Act to limit the amount of horsepower on all vehicles that are not government-issued

Be it Enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth In Government

Section 1) Terms in this act will be defined as follows:
Horsepower: the power of an engine measured in terms of horsepower.
Government issue vehicles: any vehicles paid for by the government used by government agencies.

Section 2) This bill will limit non-government vehicles to 36 horsepower.

Section 3) This reduction in horsepower will prevent non-government vehicles from traveling more than 10 miles per hour over the speed limit in Tennessee.

Section 4) Auto - manufacturers will be responsible for implementing the limit on the horsepower. Random inspections will be done by the department of motor vehicles.

Section 5) Manufacturers will be fined $10,000 each time they fail a horsepower inspection. The money from the fines will be used to upgrade roads in Tennessee. The cost of the taxpayers is $50,000 to $100,000 to cover the salary of the inspectors.

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

Section 7) This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
AN ACT TO CONVERT ALL OF TENNESSEE TO HYDROELECTRICITY

BE IT RESOLVED/ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1: All terms in this resolution shall be defined as follows

Economy - boost the Tennessee economy because of potential jobs
Job opportunities - more plants means more needed to run the plants
Energy - Better the environment and air quality

Section 2: Better the air quality of Tennessee and decrease the use of fossil fuels. Make electricity more accessible and affordable for citizens of Tennessee. Increase job opportunities for those who need jobs, therefore also increasing the economy of Tennessee. 12% of Tennessee is already using hydroelectric power and there are 28 hydroelectric energy plants in Tennessee.

Section 3: This will cost a lot of money and need land access to build more hydroelectric power plants.

Section 4: 25 million for base cost and 15 million to be saved. 40 million in total

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

Section 6: This law will go into effect January 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.
An act to end corporal punishment in Tennessee.

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA youth and government.

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

a) Corporal punishment or physical punishment is a punishment intended to cause physical pain to a person. When practised on minors, especially in home and school settings, methods include spanking or paddling. When practised on adults, it may be practised on prisoners and slaves.

b) Paddling: beat (someone) with a paddle as a punishment.

c) Caning is a form of corporal punishment consisting of a number of hits with a single cane usually made of rattan, generally applied to the offender's bare or clothed buttocks or hands. Caning on the knuckles or shoulders is much less common. Caning can also be applied to the soles of the feet.

d) Flagellation, flogging, whipping or lashing is the act of beating the human body with special implements such as whips, lashes, rods, switches, the cat o' nine tails, the sjambok, the knout, etc.

Section 2) This act will restrict the act of flagellation, flogging, whipping or lashing (minor abuse/assault in the state of Tennessee, and it will ban corporal punishment in private, public, catholic, charter, special education, magnet, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate, and independent schools.

Section 3)

Class A felony) 15 to 60 years and a maximum fine of $50,000.

Class B felony) 8 to 30 years and a maximum fine of $25,000.

Class C felony) 2 to 12 years and a maximum fine of $5,000.

Section 4) This act will require security inside school campuses and for all whipping paddles to be removed from all school campuses.

Section 5) This bill will not cost any tax.

Section 6) This act shall take effect by January 1, 2022.
AN ACT TO RESTRICT HUNTERS’ PROXIMITY TO RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC AREAS

SECTION 1: Terms in this act, unless the context requires otherwise, will be defined as follows
Recreational areas- Recreational areas would include land that is designed, constructed, designated, or used for recreational activities.
Repeal- To formally withdraw, or to take a law back.

SECTION 2: Hunters in close proximity to public and residential areas pose a serious safety threat, as well as being very disruptive. Hunters will not be allowed to hunt within a 200 yard radius of residential areas or places open to the public (Ex. recreational areas, schools, offices, etc.)

SECTION 3: The first time a hunter is caught hunting within a 200 yard radius they will be charged a fine of $800 and will be given a warning. If they are caught a second time, they will receive a fine of $1,800 and have their hunting license suspended for 1 month. If the hunter is caught a third time, they will be given 1 month in jail and will have their hunting license permanently revoked and their gun taken from them as well as being fined $2000. In all of these scenarios, if the hunter is caught within a 150 yard radius, they will be fined an extra $50 for every 20 yards closer, and for within a 90 yard radius they will be fined an extra $100 for every 10 yards closer.

SECTION 4: All fines mentioned in this act will be managed by the areas local police department and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

SECTION 5: All laws or parts of laws conflicting with this act are hereby repealed

SECTION 6: If this act is passed, all parts mentioned will take effect immediately.
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE 5
An act to ban billboards on Tennessee highways

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

Section 1) Terms used in this act should be defined as follows:
   a) Billboards: a large outdoor board for displaying advertisements.
   b) Places: within 300 yards of any highways or public roads

Section 2) This act will ban the use of billboards within 300 yards of any highways or public roads.

Section 3) Billboards that are already in place will be allowed to remain, but they can not be updated.

Section 4) This bill will not cost the taxpayers any funds.

Section 5) All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 6) This law will be put in place by January 1, 2022.
Sponsors: Ya'el Amsalem, Grace Kingree, Julia Melson, Mary Jackson Tatum
School: Harpeth Hall School

AN ACT TO ENFORCE THE SUPPLY OF FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS
IN ALL PUBLIC-SCHOOL RESTROOMS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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

a. National School Lunch Program - Schools under this program provide
   healthy lunches to students every school day.

b. Feminine Hygiene - products used to refer to the use of sanitary protection
   for women’s menstruations such as tampons, pads, panty liners, etc.

Section 2: Schools that rely on the National School Lunch program are often
in poverty. Families in poverty are often faced with the difficult decision to
buy food or feminine hygiene products.

Section 3: All public middle and high schools that fall into the National School
Lunch Program will be required to provide free feminine hygiene products in
all restrooms associated with those schools.

Section 4: This program will cost the Tennessee government $5,241,600 per
year but will require no additional funding. Those who need extra funding will
receive it through the National School Lunch Program, which currently gives
schools the option to provide funding for feminine products. Schools that
receive this funding will be required to use that funding for feminine
products.

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

Section 6: This act shall take effect August 1, 2021, the public welfare
requiring it.
An Act To Prevent Sitting On Death Row For More Than Three Years.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE

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

Death Row - A prison block or section for prisoners sentenced to death.
Death Penalty - The punishment of execution, administered to someone legally convicted of a capital crime
Parole - The release of a prisoner temporarily (for a special purpose) or permanently before the completion of a sentence, on the promise of good behavior

Section 2: This act will prevent people from sitting on death row for more than three years. If by the end of those three years they have not been executed they will be sentenced to life in prison with no parole.

Section 3: The cost related to this bill will be based on housing the convicted criminal for life in prison.

Section 4: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 5: This bill shall take effect on all death penalty cases after January 01, 2022.
An Act to Abolish Standardized Testing

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA IN GOVERNMENT

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

Examination: a formal test of a person's knowledge or proficiency in a particular subject or skill.

Standardized Test: is any examination that's administered and scored in a predetermined, standard manner. There are two major kinds of standardized tests: aptitude tests and achievement tests. Standardized aptitude tests predict how well students are likely to perform in some subsequent educational setting.

Abolish: formally put an end to (a system, practice, or institution).

Classism: prejudice against or in favor of people belonging to a particular social class.

Section 2: The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Tests all students in the state from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Three of the main purposes for administering the test according to the Department of Education are “1. for the purpose of providing feedback about a student’s performance 2. Helping educators strengthen instruction and 3. Holding the schools accountable to serving all students fairly.”

Section 3: However, many problems still exist within the system, especially as it pertains to serving all students.

Problem 1- Standardized tests don’t provide any feedback on how to perform better. No paperwork is returned to the guardians to show what questions were missed.

Problem 2- Standardized tests occur in an artificial learning environment. Most real-life problem solving is not multiple choice, timed or solved without contributions from others.

Problem 3-Standardized tests create undue stress and anxiety. Students who typically do well in school don’t always test well on automated tests, giving an unfair assessment of their skills. If students perceive they will not perform well, their emotions are often reflected in their score.
Section 4: Standardized tests are often perceived as classist because they favor wealthier school districts which offer better resources. A child in a poorer performing school often receives personal scores that are often a reflection of a broken school system and not their effort. Administering the TCAP now, after months of Corona school closings would be merely a reflection of private schools that stayed open versus public schools that were not.

Section 5: Lastly, administering the TCAP is a week without learning. Kids are already behind (especially due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.). Taking an additional week off will again put them behind private school students who have had in-person learning for the last year.

Section 6: If enacted, this bill would abolish standardized testing altogether. The state approved curriculum for Tennessee schools will be the guidelines for success in the classroom.

Section 7: If enacted, this bill will have minimal financial cost.

Section 8: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 9: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2022.
AN ACT TO IMPROVE CONCUSSION REGULATIONS IN TENNESSEE YOUTH SPORTS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Terms in this bill will be defined as follows:
Concussion—Traumatic brain injury that causes brain movement inside of the skull
Licensed health care provider—Tennessee licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician, clinical neuropsychologist, or physical assistant with concussion training who is a member of a health care team supervised by a Tennessee licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician.
Practice—Sport related activity with team and only with team, separate from competition against any other teams

Section 2: All participants in youth sports will be required to attend a yearly briefing on concussion safety protocol. Participants in contact sports are also expected to read a separate, sport-specific manual on how to avoid concussions in the specific sport.

Section 3: The standards for these briefings will be set by the Tennessee Department of Health, as well as the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

Section 4: Youth sports participants should not be allowed to immediately resume play in competitive games after being cleared by medical professionals. Coaches should have the player in question play in at least one practice session to gauge their playing ability.

Section 5: Players returning to play after four weeks or less with clearance should be put on playing time restrictions so their injuries do not reaggravate. These restrictions are to be decided by the coach and the medical professional. Players returning after four weeks (28 days) or greater may resume full playing time without restriction.

Section 6: Every head coach of a school sports team is required to attend 10 hours of concussion training preceding their athletic season. Assistant
coaches, if applicable to a sports team, are also required to attend said training.

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

Section 8: This act will take effect June 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act to Update Athletic Equipment in Public Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Our bill is addressing athletic equipment for public schools should be renewed every 5 years for every sport that is played at that school.

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

- Athletic equipment - tools, materials, apparel, and gear used to compete in a sport and varies depending on the sport.
- Renew - to get rid of the old, and to upgrade to the new.

Section 2: In the state of Tennessee, there are approximately 1,700 public schools, each sponsoring various sports teams for boys and girls. For each of those sports, participants are required to use approved equipment and wear effective protective gear. Much of the equipment and protective gear is provided through state funds. Without the required equipment, sports become unplayable, and without protective gear, serious injuries, including death, become inevitable.

Section 3: By sponsoring the school sport, the state of Tennessee needs to guarantee that the equipment is up to date and reconditioned. The current state of equipment and protective gear in Tennessee public schools has fallen beneath the bar of safety for the students to use and desperately needs to be replaced. A system of renewal needs to be established to ensure the safety of students wearing these items.

Section 4: If enacted, this bill would require all public schools offering a sport to perform an audit of all current sports equipment and protective gear. All items that do not meet the standard of safety must immediately be destroyed in order to avoid it being resold or reused. All remaining items will be inventoried and inspected every 6 months.

Section 5: Each school will inform the state on the first school day of the calendar year of the current status and deficiencies in their department. New items will be reissued to each school’s athletic department no later than July 1st of that year.

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

Section 7: This bill shall take effect on July 1, 2022 or the beginning of the fiscal year
68th General Assembly
of the
Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government
RED SENATE

Sponsors: Sam Lanyon, Todd Hammond
School: Brentwood Academy

An Act To End The Gun Show Loophole in Tennessee

Section 1: Terms in this act will be defined as follows:
a.) The Gun Show Loophole - The Gun Show loophole is a system when guns at a gun show are for sale, and people can obtain them from a private dealer without any background check whatsoever.
b.) Background Check - a process a person or company uses to verify that an individual is who they claim to be, and this provides an opportunity to check and confirm the validity of someone's criminal record, education, employment history, and other activities from their past.

Section 2: A policy will take place limiting the amount of gun shows allowed, restricting companies from being able to show off high-tech weaponry too often. Also, a background check will become necessary for a gun to be purchased.

Section 3: Without a background check, gun purchase will be prohibited, and if caught with a gun illegally, a $250 dollar fine will take place.

Section 4: These standards will be set by the State National Guard and Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

Section 5: This act will not require funding, but rather cooperation from gun companies and certain parts of State Government.

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

Section 7: This act shall take place July 1st, 2021, with public welfare requiring it.
An act to require DNA evidence for a person to be eligible for the death penalty

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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

a.) DNA - a self-replicating material that is present in nearly all living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes. It is the carrier of genetic information.

b.) Death penalty - the punishment of execution, administered to someone legally convicted of a capital crime.

C.) Illegal - contrary to or forbidden by law, especially criminal law.

d) evidence - something that furnishes proof: testimony specifically: something legally submitted to a tribunal to ascertain the truth of a matter.

e.) convicted - the act or process of finding a person guilty of a crime especially in a court of law

Section 2: In order for the death penalty to be implemented there must be DNA evidence used in the conviction.

Section 3: This law will not cost the taxpayers any money

Section 4: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby Repealed.

Section 5: This act will take place immediately because there is no cost or penalty.
Homelessness has been a massive problem in the world. In Tennessee, there are up to 7,886 and 12 homeless per 10,000 people in the general population. Many people have had to live without homes for reasons such as poverty, no available jobs, and shortage of money. Also, some homeless people might have a lack of clothing to wear. Here in Tennessee, about 7,467 people are going homeless. Most states have more than that. The growth has been changing in Tennessee, the average was the same from 2011 - 2018, but then it slowed down in 2019. After 2019, 2020 came to have the same number of people going homeless before.

Cities in Tennessee

- Nashville - Average Population 2,298
- Memphis - Average Population 1,226
- Jackson - Average Population 1,026
- Knoxville - Average Population 743
- Chattanooga - Average Population 623
- Murfreesboro - Average Population 283
- Central Tennessee - Average Population 268
- Oak Ridge - Average Population 258
- Morristown - Average Population 798
- Appalachian Regional - Average population 360

This Chart shows the Cities in Tennessee and how much is the average population of each City. Notice how Nashville has the most people that are going homeless. In such a small city, there is a much bigger population of homeless people.

Here are some solutions that might work for homelessness:

1. First, we need to consider space. We should increase the number of shelters available to the homeless.

2. Affordable housing would be a longer-term solution. Let’s increase the number of these units overall. If more people can afford to house, they won’t be homeless.
3. Provide the homeless with permanent, affordable housing and wrap-around services.

4. Donating to the Homeless, some of the few suggestions are Blankets, clothing, socks, or any other type of things that we could contribute to the homeless, and it also has to be something helpful.
AN ACT TO AID STUDENTS WITH LOW ACT SCORES AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

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

a) The ACT is a standardized college admissions test often taken in the United States. The test scores range from one to thirty six.

Section 2: A minimum score of 17 must be achieved to be recommended for a Tennessee state college or university.

Section 3: The purpose of this bill is to help students raise their ACT scores while also helping college students in need of financial support with school.

Section 4: College students with a high school ACT score of 30 or above may apply for the ACT student aid program. This program allows college students with high ACT scores to tutor high school students with a preliminary practice score of 17 or below in exchange for scholarship aid for their majoring course.

Section 5: The high school students who have been tutored must get a score higher than 17 on their ACT in order for the scholarship aid for the college tutor to be applicable, and two study sessions per week over a two month period prior to ACT testing week must be completed.

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

Section 7: This act shall take effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.
An Act for Tennessee Colleges to spend the same amount of money for recruiting on men and women

Be it enacted by the Tennessee YMCA Youth Legislature:

Section 1: Terms in this act are defined as follows:
Recruiting- Is the process in which college coaches add prospective student athletes to their roster each off season
Tennessee Colleges- a four year college located in Tennessee

Section 2: Tennessee Colleges should be required to spend about the same amount of money on women and men. The difference should be between 50 thousand dollars.

Section 3: Schools that do not follow this policy will be fined 500 on the first offense and go up 1,000 following everytime this offense is broken.

Section 4: This will not cost any additional money to taxpayers in the state of Tennessee.

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

Section 6: This bill shall take effect January 1, 2022.
An Act to Repeal the Pink Tax

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:

Pink Tax: an extra amount that women pay for everyday items such as razors, shampoo, haircuts, clothes, dry cleaning, etc. It takes form of artificially elevated prices that women pay for the same product as men.

Section 2: Women pay an estimated extra $1,300 a year for essentially the same products as men. Companies, knowing that women invest more in their health and beauty products, are artificially inflating products sold to women. Simply producing the same item in pink somehow increases some items from earplugs, bike helmets and even calculators from $.50 to $3.

Section 3: If enacted, this bill will prevent the deliberate price gouging by companies who target women. Tennessee retailers would have to sell identical products made for men and women at the same price.

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

Section 5: This bill, if enacted, shall take effect on July 1, 2021.
An Act to change seatbelt safety laws

SECTION 1: The following terms are defined as follows:

1. Primary - “Of chief importance; principle.”
2. Motor vehicle - “A road vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; an automobile.”

SECTION 2:
More than 38,000 people between the ages of 1-54 die of a fatal car wreck each year, making it the leading cause of death in the United States. The chances of dying in a car wreck with your seatbelt on are 47 times less than without. Tennessee Law 55-9-603 states that people over the age of 18 don’t have to wear a seat belt if you are sitting in the back seat.

SECTION 3:
We propose that we change Tennessee Law 55-9-603 to state that seat belts must be required for all people in a motor vehicle while it is in motion.

SECTION 4:
This will be of no cost to the state of Tennessee.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1) Terms in this bill are defined as followed:
Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity or contact that you do not consent to. Sexual assault can happen through physical force or threats of force or if the attacker gave the victim drugs or alcohol as part of the assault. Sexual assault includes rape and sexual coercion.
Minor any person who is under the age of 18
Criminal court- a court that has jurisdiction to try and punish offenders against criminal law
Parole- when you are let out of prison early but if you get in trouble again you have to finish your sentence.

Section 2) a person who has been found guilty in a criminal court of the charges of sexual assault against a minor for the 2nd time will be sentenced to life in prison with no chance for parole.

Section 3) The cost for this bill will be the same as the cost of housing someone in jail for life.

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

Section 5) This bill shall take effect immediately after it is passed.
AN ACT TO REGULATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT:

Section I: Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:
Title VI Act of 1964: No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
Racism: prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people based on their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.
Public environment: A location in which every citizen has access to visit.
Ku Klux Klan: a violent post-Civil War secret society founded in Tennessee in 1866 to upend the Black political and social power that was being established during Reconstruction.
Confederate: a supporter of the Confederate States of America.

Section II: Racism is still a major issue within the educational system, workplaces, public spaces or forums. The use of the Confederate flag supports this as it represents the old, predominantly Southern belief that any person of color is inferior to that of white people. Upon careful inspection, busts or statues of Confederate leaders or avid Ku Klux Klan supporters and leaders have been placed around Tennessee, essentially proving that racism and discrimination based on the color of one’s skin is not an idea lost in the past. Rather, it serves to show that the State legislation condones an outdated and unjust belief. Any efforts against this issue have been ignored or ineffective.

Section III: We propose a new law that bans any form of racism in any public environment. No words, images depicting racist scenes, or any phrases may be stated, spoken, or discussed. Any race-offensive or racist comments, words, retorts, remarks, quips, phrases, or threats will be identified as verbal abuse and hence, illegal harassment. This can also be considered as disorderly conduct. If deemed as harassment or disorderly conduct, an appropriate punishment determined in court will be implemented.
Section IV: This bill will not require any fees as it is creating a new law for the citizens of Tennessee to follow. Therefore, it will not put the economic position of Tennessee at risk.

Section V: All laws or parts of laws in dispute with this are hereby revoked.

Section VI: This act shall take effect as soon as possible.
AN ACT TO REQUIRE BUSINESSES TO PAY ESSENTIAL HOURLY EMPLOYEES TIME AND A HALF IF A QUARANTINE IS PUT IN PLACE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATIVE:

Section 1) Terms used in this act shall be defined as follows:
A) Employees: who have to work in order to keep society functioning
B) Time And a Half: An employee's hourly wage plus half of the wage
C) Quarantine: The government orders a shut down
D) Pay: give (someone) money that is due for work done, goods received, or a debt incurred.
E) Essential: Absolutely necessary, Extremely important
F) Businesses: a person's regular occupation, profession, or trade.
G) Act: take action; do something.
H) Require: need for a particular purpose.
I) Place: a particular position or point in space.
J) Put: move to or place in a particular position.
K) Hourly: An employee who is paid a certain amount of money per hour.

Section 2) Under this law if a quarantine was put into effect, businesses would be required to compensate essential hourly employees at a rate of time and a half.

Section 3) Companies that fail to meet this requirement will be penalized $1000 and be required to reimburse the employee for the money they shorted the employee.

Section 4) There will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Section 5) This act will not require funding from the state budget but may generate revenue resulting from fines.

Section 6) July 6th, 2024
An Act to Make Tennessee a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TENNESSEE YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Section 1: 2nd Amendment: the Amendment to the United States Constitution that establishes “The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”
Sanctuary State: a state that refuses to abide by or assist in a federal law that they deem unfair.
Executive order: a rule or law issued by the president having the force of law

Section 2: In April 2021, President Joseph Biden announced a number of executive orders pertaining to the use of firearms in the United States. Orders included the registering of self-assembled “ghost” firearms, and the use of stabilizing braces for pistols. These executive orders are orders having the force of law without going through Congress or the Judicial Branch for approval.

Section 3: The United States Constitution explicitly says that the right to bear arms is a natural, God-given right and the duty of the government is to guarantee that that right is not infringed on by man, even a president.

Section 4: In the past decade, the concept of sanctuary states have become more prevalent. As a federal policy is unrolled, certain states have evaluated them to decide whether those laws are in concert with their local values. States have announced and implemented their mandates that no state taxes or resources would be spent in support of federal laws they disagreed with.

Section 7: If enacted, this act would make Tennessee the 3rd state to declare its status as a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State after Arizona, Alaska, Idaho, Kansas and Wyoming. No state or local taxes would be used to enforce any additional federal gun laws that infringe upon the right of law abiding citizens to own and carry guns.

Section 8: If enacted, this bill will have minimal financial cost to the state of Tennessee.

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

Section 10: This bill shall take effect on January 1, 2022.