



CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

NOVEMBER 2024
LEGISLATION DOCKET



NOVEMBER 2024 DOCKET

A Bill to Institute Siesta in Federal Offices.....	3
The Amtrak Affordability Act	4
A Bill to Limit Tourism in National Parks	5
A Bill to Provide Full Funding for NPR	6
A Bill to Mandate Historical Marker Accuracy and Integrity	7
A Bill to Provide for the Eradication of the Bradford Pear Tree	8
A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act	9
A Bill to End Aid for Ukraine	10
A Bill to Fund Free Public Municipal Restrooms	11
A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Institute Approval Voting.....	12

A Bill to Institute Siesta in Federal Offices

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** All federal offices shall redesign their schedules to provide three full hours of off-time in
3 the middle of the work day to allow employees time for siesta. Employees may stay at their
4 worksite for siesta, or they may leave the premises.

5 **SECTION 2.** A siesta is defined as resting or napping during the middle of the day, a practice with wide-
6 ranging and well-documented health benefits.

7 **SECTION 3.** Federal offices are encouraged to provide space for employees to take their siesta on the
8 premises. Congress shall apportion an additional \$500 million annually to the Department
9 of Health to be used to support workplaces in preparing spaces and purchasing supplies for
10 siesta. Non-federal workplaces may also apply for these funds and are encouraged to enact
11 similar practices for the health and well-being of their employees.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be jointly overseen by the Department of Health and the Department
13 of Labor.

14 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect January 1, 2026.

15 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

The Amtrak Affordability Act

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** For a coach ticket on any given route, Amtrak may charge no more than 50% of the average
3 airfare cost for a comparable itinerary. For fare on a sleeper car (where available), Amtrak
4 may charge no more than an amount equal to the average airfare cost for a comparable
5 itinerary.

6 **SECTION 2.** Congress shall divert an additional \$1 billion annually to Amtrak to subsidize ticket prices
7 and to be used to make Amtrak more affordable and efficient overall.

8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Transportation, which shall be
9 directed to work with Amtrak to design an efficient and regularly updated system for
10 determining and guaranteeing appropriate fares.

11 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

12 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Limit Tourism in National Parks

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** In order to better enable the National Park Service (NPS) to achieve its mission, the number
3 of visitors allowed in National Park Areas shall be limited.

4 **SECTION 2.** The NPS is instructed to evaluate an environmentally and logistically sustainable capacity
5 for each of its parks and park areas and to set limits accordingly. The NPS shall have full
6 discretion over the parameters and details of these restrictions, but they are directed to
7 keep matters of equity and accessibility in mind when determining which visitors gain
8 access.

9 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the NPS.

10 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

11 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Provide Full Funding for NPR

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall henceforth provide total funding for the operations of National Public Radio
- 3 (NPR). NPR shall be barred from seeking and obtaining funding through corporate
- 4 sponsorships, member donations, or any other means.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- 6 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next legislative fiscal year.
- 7 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Mandate Historical Marker Accuracy and Integrity

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** All historical markers visible from public roadways or walkways shall henceforth be held to
3 the highest standards of historical accuracy and integrity, regardless of what agency or
4 organization is responsible for their installation and maintenance.

5 **SECTION 2.** A historical marker is defined as a sign posted to commemorate an historical event and to
6 provide information about that event for the benefit of the public.

7 **SECTION 3.** The federal government shall invoke the principle of eminent domain to remove and
8 dispose of any historical marker that has not been brought up to these standards within
9 two years of the date of implementation of this legislation. Reasons for removal and
10 disposal shall include but not be limited to factual errors, omissions of key details, and
11 biased representations.

12 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Education, which shall be
13 responsible for assessing the accuracy and integrity of historical markers in addition to
14 arranging for the timely removal and disposal of any substandard markers.

15 **SECTION 5.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

16 **SECTION 6.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Provide for the Eradication of the Bradford Pear Tree

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall establish a fund of \$100 million per year for each of the next five years to
- 3 fund the eradication of the detrimentally malodorous Bradford pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*)
- 4 throughout the United States.
- 5 **SECTION 2.** States and municipalities may apply for these funds and utilize them to destroy Bradford
- 6 pear trees in public spaces. Funds may also be used to replant less detrimentally
- 7 malodorous trees in their place.
- 8 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- 9 **SECTION 4.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.
- 10 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Repeal the Jones Act

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, also known as the Jones Act, is hereby repealed. There
- 3 shall no longer be any restrictions on vessels that transport goods between U.S. ports.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Commerce.
- 5 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2025.
- 6 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to End Aid for Ukraine

- 1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** The United States shall halt the transfer of weapons, supplies, and any other form of aid to
- 3 Ukraine immediately and indefinitely.
- 4 **SECTION 2.** This legislation shall be overseen by the Department of Defense.
- 5 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.
- 6 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Bill to Fund Free Public Municipal Restrooms

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

2 **SECTION 1.** Congress shall establish an annual fund of \$500 million to support the construction and
3 maintenance of restrooms in municipal areas that shall be free to the public and open 24
4 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (closing only for cleaning, maintenance, and
5 repairs).

6 **SECTION 2.** These funds shall be managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development
7 (HUD), which shall establish a program that enables municipalities to apply for, receive, and
8 utilize these funds. Congress directs HUD to ensure this process promotes the construction
9 of public restrooms in areas that would most benefit from them.

10 **SECTION 3.** This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next congressional fiscal year.

11 **SECTION 4.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Institute Approval Voting

1 **RESOLVED**, That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United
2 States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
3 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from
4 the date of its submission by the Congress:

5 **ARTICLE —**

6 **SECTION 1.** All federal elections within the United States and its territories shall henceforth be
7 conducted utilizing approval voting.

8 **SECTION 2.** Ballots shall provide voters the opportunity to rate their approval of each candidate on a
9 scale of -10 (absolute disapproval) to +10 (absolute approval). Voters may also abstain on
10 rating any individual candidate. All ratings shall be added together, and the candidate with
11 the highest overall approval score shall be declared the winner.

12 **SECTION 3.** All other jurisdictions are encouraged to adopt approval voting as well.

13 **SECTION 4.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.