Bonjour Madame Aidan,

Je suis Élie Houé, étudiant en master à Sciences Po Lille et à l'université de Tel Aviv.

Dans le cadre d'un programme d'études sur la démocratie que je suis à l'université de Tel Aviv, il m'a été demandé de penser à une loi bénéfique pour la société, selon moi, et de la proposer à un élu national.

J'ai pensé à un équivalent français à la *Loi du Retour* israélienne. Cela m'a semblé pertinent à l'heure où le Président de la République parle de la nécessité d'un « réarmement démographique » pour faire face aux nouvelles menaces qui pèsent sur la France. D'autant plus que notre pays a, depuis peu, un solde naturel négatif et que l'immigration extra-européenne est davantage perçue comme un problème que comme une solution aux difficultés actuelles. Alors que des milliers de Français extrêmement compétents et éduqués émigrent chaque année vers les États-Unis, la Suisse, le Canada, Israël et d'autres pays, il s'agirait ainsi de favoriser et de faciliter le retour vers la République de leurs descendants à la condition qu'ils fassent preuve d'une solide volonté d'intégration et d'installation durable sur le territoire français.

Ainsi, tout conjoint, enfant ou petit-enfant d'un ressortissant français recevrait automatiquement la citoyenneté française s'il venait à en faire la demande, sous réserve qu'il ne présente pas de risque pour la sécurité de l'État, la santé publique ou l'ordre public, qu'il s'engage à suivre un apprentissage intensif de la langue, et à faire de la France son centre de vie pour les dix prochaines années.

J'ai conscience que les lois actuelles d'acquisition de la nationalité par le droit du sang permettent déjà cela dans une certaine mesure, mais il s'agirait de les élargir et de les rendre plus automatiques pour inclure les petits-enfants de Français et non seulement leurs enfants : un droit au saut de génération en somme. Il faudrait aussi abroger l'article 30-3 du code civil qui prévoit la perte, par désuétude, du droit à la demande de reconnaissance de nationalité par filiation après 50 ans de résidence à l'étranger de la famille d'un individu.

Enfin, il s'agirait aussi d'adopter un système d'accueil proactif pour encourager le retour en France des personnes qui seraient concernées par cette loi, à la manière des mesures prises par le ministère israélien de l'*alyah*. On pourrait ainsi envisager une aide financière pour couvrir les besoins de base dans les premiers mois suivant le retour, une exonération fiscale sur tous les revenus générés à l'étranger, et des programmes gratuits et obligatoires d'apprentissage de la langue et de la culture françaises quand jugés nécessaires. Des avantages similaires pourraient aussi être accordés à toute personne, pas trop proche de l'âge de la retraite, ayant quitté la France depuis plus de 15 ans et qui souhaiterait revenir y travailler ou éduquer ses enfants.

Je vous remercie d'ores et déjà d'avoir pris le temps de lire cette proposition, et vous serais particulièrement reconnaissant si vous pouviez y répondre rapidement par quelques critiques de fond.

Une telle législation vous semblerait-elle possible et/ou souhaitable en France ? Est-ce quelque chose que vous soutiendriez ou pourriez soumettre à l'Assemblée ? Pourquoi ? Quels seraient, selon vous, les principaux arguments contre et en faveur de cette loi ?

Je vous souhaite une bonne fin de semaine,

Élie Houé

A las Cortes Generales del Reino de España:

En los últimos años, muchos municipios rurales de nuestro país han visto cómo se reducían sus servicios sanitarios presenciales, lo que aumenta la brecha entre las grandes ciudades y la llamada "España vaciada" y afecta especialmente a las personas mayores y a quienes cuentan con menos recursos. Esta situación genera una desigualdad real en el acceso a la atención primaria, a pesar de que la protección de la salud es un derecho reconocido para todos los ciudadanos.

Por todo ello, me permito someter respetuosamente a su consideración una propuesta de reforma legislativa cuyo objetivo es garantizar un nivel mínimo de atención sanitaria en el medio rural. En primer lugar, propongo que se establezca por ley la obligación de asegurar, en los municipios pequeños, la presencia regular de médico de familia, servicios de enfermería y atención pediátrica allí donde exista población infantil suficiente. Las Comunidades Autónomas deberían elaborar mapas de servicios que aseguren que ningún vecino del ámbito rural quede sin un acceso razonable a un centro de salud o consultorio.

En segundo lugar, considero necesario crear incentivos específicos para los profesionales sanitarios que acepten y mantengan plazas en estas zonas: complementos salariales, reconocimiento de méritos en su carrera profesional y ayudas para vivienda o transporte, con el fin de hacer más atractivo y estable el trabajo en el medio rural.

Por último, propongo que se regule la telemedicina como herramienta complementaria, útil para seguimientos y consultas simples, pero sin sustituir la atención presencial, especialmente en el caso de las personas mayores o con dificultades tecnológicas. La ley debería dejar claro que la telemedicina no puede convertirse en la única forma de atención primaria en un municipio, salvo en situaciones excepcionales y temporales.

Estoy convencido de que una reforma de este tipo contribuiría a reforzar la cohesión territorial, proteger a los más vulnerables y garantizar que vivir en un pueblo no signifique renunciar a una atención sanitaria digna. Agradezco de antemano su atención y quedo a la espera de que esta propuesta pueda ser tenida en cuenta.

Atentamente,

Miguel Leboso Moriano

Un ciudadano preocupado por la sanidad en el medio rural de España

· Translation

To the Honourable Members of the Cortes Generales of the Kingdom of Spain,

In recent years, many rural municipalities in our country have seen their in-person healthcare services reduced, which widens the gap between large cities and the so-called “emptied Spain” and especially affects elderly people and those with fewer resources. This situation creates a real inequality in access to primary care, despite the fact that the protection of health is a right recognized for all citizens.

For all these reasons, I respectfully submit for your consideration a legislative reform proposal whose aim is to guarantee a minimum level of healthcare in rural areas. First, I propose that the law establish the obligation to ensure, in small municipalities, the regular presence of a family doctor, nursing services, and pediatric care wherever there is a sufficient child population. The Autonomous Communities should draw up service maps to ensure that no resident in rural areas is left without reasonable access to a health centre or local clinic.

Secondly, I consider it necessary to create specific incentives for healthcare professionals who accept and remain in posts in these areas: salary supplements, recognition of merit in their professional careers, and support for housing or transport, in order to make working in rural areas more attractive and stable.

Lastly, I propose that telemedicine be regulated as a complementary tool, useful for follow-up and simple consultations, but without replacing in-person care, especially for elderly people or those with technological difficulties. The law should make it clear that telemedicine cannot become the only form of primary care in a municipality, except in exceptional and temporary situations.

I am convinced that a reform of this kind would help to strengthen territorial cohesion, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure that living in a village does not mean giving up dignified healthcare. I thank you in advance for your attention and hope that this proposal may be taken into consideration.

Sincerely,

Miguel Leboso Moriano

A citizen concerned about healthcare in rural Spain

Codifying Digital Transparency and Rapid-Response Mechanisms to Counter Foreign Influence and Election Cognitive Warfare

Dear Rep. Shin Sung-bum and your office team,

My name is Hanmin Oh. I currently conduct research on cognitive warfare and foreign influence at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), and through the Irwin Cotler Institute Fellowship Program I focus on how democracies can protect electoral integrity and public trust.

While South Korea's election process is institutionally mature, the online environment has enabled influence operations that combine funding, proxy service providers, platforms, and coordinated networks at speed and scale. The challenge is that if the system responds only after individual incidents occur—and in a fragmented way—public trust in election outcomes is often damaged before the integrity of the process can even be assessed. In my view, the central task is not censorship or broad restrictions on speech, but rather (1) making the origins, costs, and distribution dynamics of political messaging more transparent, and (2) codifying clear procedures that allow rapid, lawful coordination among responsible institutions during election periods.

With that in mind, I would like to submit the following legislative package concept based on a "minimum intrusion–maximum transparency" principle (working title).

1. **Standardizing transparency for online political advertising**
   Require standardized disclosure of key information for online political ads—such as sponsor/advertiser identity, spend, run dates, core targeting criteria, and reach/impressions—and establish a legal basis for a publicly accessible political ad library (archive). This approach strengthens voters' right to know without directly restricting lawful expression.
2. **Registration and labeling of "foreign influence activities" (scope open for discussion)**
   Consider a mechanism requiring registration and clear labeling when foreign governments, parties, or their agents materially engage in domestic opinion shaping or political processes, subject to defined thresholds. The intent is not to ban content, but to enable voters to evaluate messages with knowledge of their provenance and underlying interests.
3. **Platform transparency reporting and codified lawful data-request procedures**
   Encourage or require regular platform transparency reporting related to organized manipulation (e.g., coordinated inauthentic networks, synchronized narrative amplification), and codify procedures under which the National Election Commission and relevant authorities may request and verify necessary information within a clearly bounded framework (legal basis, scope, documentation, and ex post oversight). Clear rules help both platforms and government actors avoid arbitrary decision-making and accountability gaps.

4. **Legal foundation for an election-period joint response mechanism** Create statutory authority for an election-period “joint situation room/hotline” coordination mechanism, enabling structured information-sharing, reporting intake, rapid verification, and pre-defined response protocols among the National Election Commission, relevant ministries, security/investigative bodies, and platforms. This is a preventive, procedure-based posture rather than ad hoc crisis management after the fact.

This proposal is not intended to advantage any political side. It is aimed at updating the rules of the game for the digital era in order to safeguard electoral fairness and, critically, public confidence in outcomes. I would be grateful if your office could review this concept, and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how it could be designed conservatively with respect to constitutional rights, enforcement scope, and institutional responsibilities.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hanmin Oh

Irwin Cotler Institute Fellowship

Araz Can Dikme (Turkey)

Sayın Erzincan Milletvekili Mustafa Sarıgül'e

Türkiye'miz yeni bir seçime adım adım ilerlerken yurtdışı oyları her zamanki gibi halkımız nezdinde büyük bir soru işaretidir. Bu husus üzerine sizin yüce mecliste dile getirebileceğiniz bir kanun fikrini arz etmek isterim; Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Anayasası madde 67 ile belirtilen ''Seçme, Seçilme ve Siyasi Faaliyette Bulunma Hakları'' akabinde detaylı düzenleme olarak yürürlüğe giren 2839 sayılı ''Milletvekili Seçim Kanunu'' üzerinde günümüz gerçekliğiyle örtüşecek düzenlemeler yapılmalıdır. Bu düzenlemelerle kastedilen şunlardır; vatan toprakları dışında ikamet eden ve temelli göç etmiş şahısların seçimlerdeki etkisini düşürmek, vatana geri dönüşü teşvik etmek ve karar hakkını vatan toprakları üzerinde yaşayan, kararlarının sonuçlarını bizzat yaşayan kişilere devretmektir. Bu doğrultuda son 5 (beş) yıl içerisinde -bir seçim dönemi +bir yıl- 90 (doksan) gün Türkiye Cumhuriyeti sınırlarında bulunmamış yurt dışında ikamet eden vatandaşların oylarının geçersiz sayılmalıdır. Verilen şartlar yerine getirildiği takdirde bir sonraki seçimde vatandaşımızın tekrar oy kullanabilmesi şartıyla kanunda yapılacak bu düzenlemenin vatanımız ve milletimiz açısından hayırlı bir gelişme olacağı kanaatindeyim.

Saygılarınıza sunar, arz ederim.

Erzincanlı hemşehriniz Araz Can Dikme

To the Honourable Member of Parliament for Erzincan, Mr. Mustafa Sarıgül,

As our Republic of Türkiye is gradually approaching a new election period, votes cast from abroad continue, as always, to constitute a major question mark in the eyes of our people. In this regard, I respectfully wish to submit for your consideration a legislative proposal that you may choose to raise in the Grand National Assembly.

Following Article 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye, which regulates the *"Right to Vote, to Be Elected, and to Engage in Political Activity,"* further detailed provisions were enacted under Law No. 2839, the *Law on Parliamentary Elections*. I believe that this law should be amended in a manner that better reflects today's realities. The aim of such amendments would be to reduce the electoral influence of individuals who reside permanently outside the homeland, to encourage return to the country, and to transfer decision-making authority to those who live within the national territory and personally experience the consequences of the political choices made. Accordingly, I propose that the votes of citizens residing abroad who have not been physically present within the borders of the Republic of Türkiye for at least ninety (90) days within the past five (5) years—corresponding to one electoral term plus one additional year—be deemed invalid. Provided that this condition is subsequently fulfilled, the citizen would regain the right to vote in the following election. I am of the opinion that such a legislative amendment, to be introduced under these conditions, would constitute a beneficial development for our homeland and our nation. I respectfully submit this proposal for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A fellow citizen from Erzincan

Araz **Can** **Dikme**

Julien Oppenheimer (France)

BILL
Law to promote the professional integration of *olim* through the establishment of mandatory employment quotas

Explanatory Memorandum

The purpose of this law is to promote the socio-economic integration of *olim* through employment. Despite existing reception and support policies, many *olim* still face specific obstacles in the labour market: language barriers, diploma equivalency procedures, and recognition of prior professional experience.

Employment is nonetheless a decisive factor for sustainable integration. It enables financial independence, accelerates language acquisition, and fosters active participation in civic life. It is therefore legitimate to provide for a balanced mechanism requiring companies above a certain size to employ a minimum percentage of *olim*, proportionate to their overall workforce.

The proposed mechanism is inspired by employment quotas benefiting other protected categories in several States, while providing for:

- gradual implementation depending on company size;
- regulated exemptions where the nature of the activity so justifies;
- a proportionate system of sanctions, prioritising compliance over repression;
- transitional measures to allow companies time to adapt.

TITLE I — GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 — Definition

For the purposes of this law, *olim* means any person who has obtained *oleh/olah* status in accordance with the legislation in force, for a period of ten years from the date on which such status was granted.

Article 2 — Purpose

This law establishes an obligation for certain employers to ensure that a minimum percentage of *olim* is included in their workforce.

TITLE II — SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Article 3 — Employers concerned

The obligations provided for in this law apply:

1. to companies employing at least 50 full-time equivalent employees;
2. to legal persons governed by public or private law carrying out an economic activity, with the exception of the armed forces and security services subject to defence secrecy.

Article 4 — Gradual implementation of the obligation

The minimum quota of *olim* within the total workforce is set as follows:

- From 50 to 249 employees: at least **3%** *olim*
- From 250 to 999 employees: at least **5%** *olim*
- From 1,000 employees and above: at least **8%** *olim*

Percentages are calculated on the basis of the average annual workforce.

TITLE III — IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBLIGATION

Article 5 — Calculation method

The following are taken into account:

- open-ended employment contracts;
- fixed-term employment contracts of at least six months;
- part-time employment, weighted according to actual working time.

Article 6 — Support measures

The State may implement:

- language and vocational training programmes;
- financial incentives for hiring and workplace adaptation;
- a public support service for employers.

Article 7 — Exemptions

Temporary exemptions may be granted, upon a reasoned request, in cases of:

1. a proven lack of qualified *olim* candidates for specific positions;
2. serious and substantiated economic difficulties;
3. sectors requiring specific clearances not accessible to *olim*.

Exemptions are granted for a maximum period of two years and may be renewed once.

TITLE IV — MONITORING AND SANCTIONS

Article 8 — Annual reporting

Employers subject to this law shall submit each year to the competent authority:

- a declaration of the total workforce;
- the number of *olim* employed;
- the measures taken to comply with the law.

Article 9 — Financial penalties

Where an employer does not comply with the applicable quota, it shall be liable for a compensatory contribution set at:

- **1,500 monetary units** per missing *oleh/olah* position for companies with 50 to 249 employees;
- **3,000 monetary units** per missing position for companies with 250 to 999 employees;
- **5,000 monetary units** per missing position for companies with 1,000 employees and above.

These amounts are annual and may be renewed as long as the non-compliance persists.

Article 10 — Additional sanctions

In the event of repeated non-compliance over three consecutive financial years, the following may be imposed:

- temporary exclusion from public procurement contracts;
- publication of the company’s name on a non-compliance list.

TITLE V — FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 11 — Anti-discrimination clause

This law may not have the effect of authorising discrimination contrary to the principle of equality; the hiring of *olim* must be carried out in compliance with the required qualifications and standard procedures.

Article 12 — Entry into force

This law shall enter into force twelve months after its promulgation.

Daniel Reisner (US)

Representative Katz-Muhl and team,

Good morning. My name is Daniel and I am a constituent who is extremely concerned with the rise of unfair and deceptive business practices. Many of which have accompanied the broad push for data collection that large retailers almost universally engage in. One particularly egregious practice that has been widely adopted online, and is attempting to move to brick-and-mortar stores, is surveillance pricing.

Surveillance pricing, bluntly put, is the modification of prices (generally increasing them) according to the perceived buying power of the purchaser as determined by the retailer.

In essence, this system seeks to exploit data that is collected under the nose of the consumer to maximize profit margins on each individual item, at the expense of the consumer. This practice, therefore, is purely exploitative and is a serious setback for consumer protections.

Rep. Buckner has recently introduced legislation for more transparency in regards to surveillance pricing, while also wanting to limit surveillance pricing to avoid using protected characteristics like race, religion, and sexual orientation, but this is entirely unavoidable when you consider the data inputs that corporations use to perform surveillance pricing. Corporations use video footage, previous purchase history, and data purchased from third parties which can include information as sensitive as medical histories in order to set prices, which all necessarily touch on protected characteristics, making surveillance pricing inherently discriminatory.

To that end, I would ask that you take a stronger stance against surveillance pricing. An outright ban with severe penalties for corporations that enact it within the state of Illinois would be the only way to keep it from happening and harming the residents of Illinois. Alongside this ban, there would need to be a method of keeping these retailers accountable; perhaps an inspection and comparison of prices at one location in a short period of time, conducted by investigators matching different demographic profiles.

Once again, surveillance pricing is simply a tool to extract more money from consumers, providing uncertainty about prices and in turn making it more difficult to see if corporations are engaging in anti-consumer practices down the road. It is critical to keep it from spreading at this juncture, before it becomes standard practice in brick-and-mortar stores alongside online marketplaces.

Thank you for you time and consideration,

Daniel

(Dmitry Sukhanov (Russia/Israel

חבר הכנסת גילד קריב שלום רב,

אבקש להביא לעיונך הצעה חקיקתית תמציתית שעניינה חיזוק ההגנה על קטינים המשתמשים ברשתות חברתיות. ההצעה אינה מבקשת להגביל גישה לשירותים דיגיטליים, אלא להתאים את אופן עיצובן ופעולתן של פלטפורמות מקוונות לפגיעות המוכרת של משתמשים קטינים.

בראש ובראשונה, מוצע לקבוע חובה על פלטפורמות מקוונות להבטיח רמה גבוהה של פרטיות, בטיחות והגנה לקטינים, בהתאם למודל הקבוע ב-Digital Services Act של האיחוד האירופי. חובה זו תיושם באמצעות אמצעים הולמים ומידתיים, המבוססים על קביעת רמת הגנה מוגברת לקטינים כברירת מחדל.

אמצעים אלה יכללו, בין היתר: קביעת חשבונות סגורים כברירת מחדל, כך שתוכן החשבון ופרטי המשתמש אינם נגישים לציבור הרחב ואינם חשופים כברירת מחדל; הגבלת יצירת קשר עם משתמשים שאינם מוכרים; וכן הטלת מגבלות על שימוש בפונקציות אשר טיבן כרוך ברמת סיכון מוגברת לקטינים.

מדובר באמצעים מניעתיים,אך מפחיתים באופן משמעותי סיכונים דיגיטליים בסיסיים עבור קטינים.

הצעה זו נשענת על ניסיון רגולטורי קיים במשפט האירופי ומתמקדת אך ורק בהגנה על קטינים כקבוצה פגיעה במרחב הדיגיטלי.

בברכה,
דמיטרי סוחנוב

Regulations on the Levy and Administration of Resource Consumption and Eco-Compensation Tax for the Textile and Apparel Industry.

Proposer: Hong Yubei
Date: January 1, 2026

Abstract

This proposal aims to systematically address the crises of "excessive resource consumption, intensifying environmental pressure, and the stockpile of waste textiles" faced by China's textile and apparel industry, and to promote a fundamental transformation of the industry from a linear development model to a green circular model. The core of the proposal is to recommend the formulation of a dedicated administrative regulation—the "Regulations on the Levy and Administration of Resource Consumption and Eco-Compensation Tax for the Textile and Apparel Industry"—and to simultaneously construct a nationwide, graded, and classified waste textile recycling and regeneration system to support it. This plan innovatively designs a trinity policy closed-loop system of "constraint-incentive-support": imposing rigid constraints on industry overproduction through the "Eco-Tax"; providing strong economic incentives for enterprises that actively fulfill circular responsibilities through a "Recycling Responsibility Tax Reduction" mechanism; and finally, using the revenue from the eco-tax to establish a "Green Transformation Fund" to precisely support the construction of a graded waste textile utilization system, green transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and key technology R&D. This proposal not only deepens the implementation of existing national strategies for the circular economy and "Dual Carbon" goals but also focuses on reshaping the industry's international competitiveness, transforming environmental costs into brand value and technological advantages, and guiding China from the world's largest textile and apparel producer and consumer to a global rule-setter and new industrial highland for green fashion.

Part I: Proposal Outline and Legislative Necessity

1. Case Basis: The Structural Resource and Environmental Crisis Facing China's Textile and Apparel Industry

The textile and apparel industry is a traditional pillar of the national economy, a vital livelihood industry, and an industry with significant international competitive advantages. However, behind this prosperity, the long-relied-upon linear model of

"resource-production-disposal" has become unsustainable. The resulting systemic resource waste and environmental pressure issues are increasingly acute, requiring source-level and systematic intervention through a combination of legal and economic instruments.

1. Staggering Resource Consumption and Environmental Footprint

Water Resources and Pollution: The textile industry is the world's second-largest freshwater consumer. In China, producing one ton of textiles consumes an average of 200-250 tons of water. The dyeing and finishing stage, as a major pollution source, has long been among the top contributors to national industrial wastewater discharge. The wastewater is complex in composition, containing hard-to-degrade pollutants like dyes, auxiliaries, and heavy metals, making treatment costly.

Carbon Emissions: According to UNEP data, the carbon emissions of the textile and apparel industry account for 10% of global total carbon emissions, exceeding the combined total of international aviation and shipping. As the world's largest textile and apparel producer, China's industry carbon emissions represent a key battleground for achieving the national "Dual Carbon" goals.

Waste Stockpile Crisis: China generates over 20 million tons of waste textiles annually, and this volume continues to rise with consumption growth. However, industry reports indicate that China's recycling rate for waste textiles is less than 30%, with an extremely low proportion achieving a closed-loop from old clothes to new clothes. A vast amount of clothing is landfilled or incinerated after brief use, causing enormous resource waste and serious secondary environmental pollution.

2. Dual Root Causes of Systemic Waste: "Overproduction" and the "Small, Scattered, and Weak Predicament"

The manifestation of the problem is the end-of-life "waste crisis," but the root cause lies in the front-end "overproduction" business model and the industry structure's "small, scattered, and weak predicament."

Overproduction Model: Business models represented by fast fashion, in pursuit of extreme speed-to-market and market share, heavily rely on "forecast-based production" and "massive SKU" strategies. The "hit product logic" of e-commerce platforms further exacerbates production blindness, leading to a large volume of products becoming dead stock right off the production line, creating massive "pre-consumption" waste. The average inventory turnover days for domestic apparel companies remain high; dead stock has become a major factor eroding corporate profits and dragging down industry efficiency.

SME Transformation Dilemma: China's textile and apparel industry is composed of tens

of thousands of SMEs (especially small factories), which are the main channels for employment and the capillaries of the supply chain. However, these enterprises commonly face the dilemma of "thin profits, lack of capital, and weak technology," falling seriously behind in green transformation. They lack the capacity to upgrade environmental facilities, implement energy-saving renovations, and adopt circular design. The large amounts of industrial scraps (Category B waste) they generate are often disposed of as low-value materials or become environmental hazards, making it difficult to integrate them into formal circular systems.

3. Limitations of Existing Policy Tools and the Need for Integration

China has already introduced policies such as the Circular Economy Promotion Law, the Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste, and the NDRC and other departments' Implementation Opinions on Accelerating the Recycling of Waste Textiles, which clarify the direction of recycling and set a target of a 25% recycling rate by 2025. However, the existing policy system has significant shortcomings:

Insufficient Binding Force: Primarily based on guidance and encouragement, lacking mandatory, economic constraint tools targeting the source of waste—"overproduction."

Single Driving Force: Focuses on subsidies and tax incentives for end-of-pipe recycling enterprises, failing to effectively mobilize the proactivity of product brand owners (the source of responsibility). Market endogenous motivation is insufficient.

Lack of Systematization: Insufficient specific, actionable pathways and resource support for the systematic design of the entire chain involving collection, sorting, and high-value utilization, especially regarding how to integrate the vast number of SMEs into the circular system.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for a dedicated regulation that takes strong economic leverage as its core, integrates and upgrades existing policies, and builds a modern governance system with clear responsibilities, effective incentives, and robust support.

2. Legislative Objectives and Core Principles

1. Legislative Objectives

This proposal aims to formulate a dedicated administrative regulation. By introducing a "Resource Consumption and Eco-Compensation Tax" and a supporting "Recycling Responsibility Reduction" mechanism, and mandating the establishment of a graded and classified recycling and regeneration system, it seeks to achieve the following four strategic objectives:

Source Reduction, Model Reshaping: Significantly curb industry overproduction, forcing a transformation of business models from "produce-to-stock" to "sell-to-stock" and "make-to-order," thereby reducing resource waste and ineffective inventory from the source.

Activating Circulation, Unblocking Bottlenecks: Build a powerful economic incentive mechanism that directly links brand owners' economic interests to recycling performance, transforming them from passive bystanders into active participants, and substantially increasing the recycling rate and high-value utilization level of waste textiles.

Cost Internalization, Fair Competition: Scientifically and reasonably internalize the environmental and resource costs generated throughout the clothing lifecycle into enterprises' operating costs, implementing the "polluter pays, circular actor benefits" principle, and creating a fair market environment for green innovators.

Industrial Upgrade, Cultivating Momentum: Drive technological innovation and management reform across the entire industry, focusing on supporting the green transformation of SMEs,overcoming key recycling technologies, and 培育 (cultivating) new quality productive forces such as green design, intelligent manufacturing, and high-value recycling, thereby enhancing the core position and sustainable competitiveness of China's textile and apparel industry in the global green supply chain.

2. Core Principles

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Principle: Clearly establish that brand owners (including platforms that own brands) bear primary responsibility for the resource and environmental impact of their products' entire lifecycle, particularly the responsibility for recycling and utilization at the discard stage.

Combination of Incentives and Constraints Principle: Use the "tax" to form a rigid constraint on resource waste and the "reduction" to provide economic incentives for circular actions, creating a clear, predictable market signal of "pay for overproduction, benefit from active recycling."

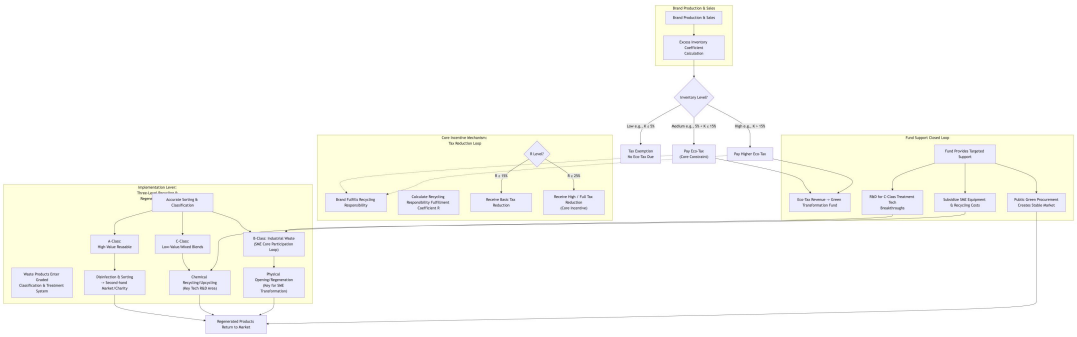
Precise Management and Classified Policy Implementation Principle: System design should be based on objective data, setting differentiated responsibility thresholds, transition periods, and support measures for large brand owners and SMEs to ensure policies are scientific, fair, and implementable.

Tax Neutrality and Earmarked Fund Principle: All revenue from this tax shall be incorporated into the national "Textile and Apparel Industry Green Transformation Fund,"specifically used for supporting the construction of the waste textile recycling system, R&D of regeneration technologies, subsidies for SME environmental upgrades,

etc., forming a virtuous cycle of "taken from the industry, used for its transformation."

Part II: Core System Design — Eco-Tax, Reduction Mechanism, and Graded Recycling System

The core of this proposal is to construct a self-reinforcing, well-functioning policy closed-loop system. Its operational mechanism is illustrated in the following diagram (not shown in text), which clearly reveals the complete logical chain from constraint to incentive to industrial support:



1. Constraint Mechanism: Resource Consumption and Eco-Compensation Tax for the Textile and Apparel Industry.To precisely target "overproduction," this tax innovatively uses the "Excess Inventory Coefficient" as its core levy indicator, directly pointing to the root cause of waste.

1. Taxpayers

Legal entities engaged in apparel (including footwear, headwear, accessories, etc.) brand operations within the territory of the People's Republic of China and selling products under that brand name,as well as self-operated brand operators on large e-commerce platforms whose annual sales reach a certain standard.

2. Tax Base and Key Indicators

Tax Base: The Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) within the domestic market for all apparel products under the brand during the enterprise's fiscal year. This base better reflects actual resource input.

Excess Inventory Coefficient (K): `K = (Annual Average Dead Stock Value / Annual COGS) × 100%`

Dead Stock Identification: Inventory goods with a warehouse age exceeding 180 days. Enterprises must implement precise warehouse age management via ERP/WMS systems

and accept verification.
Policy Intent: This indicator objectively reflects the alignment between an enterprise's production planning and market demand. A higher K value indicates more severe resource misallocation and waste.

3. Tiered Progressive Tax Rate Schedule

To reflect the punitive and guiding nature of the constraint, the tax rates are set as follows:

Excess Inventory Coefficient (K) Range	Applicable Tax Rate (% of Tax Base)	Policy Intent
K ⩽ 5%	0%	Exemption line; encourages maintaining inventory at a healthy level
5% < K ⩽ 15%	1%	Warning zone; imposes a low tax on slight)overproduction, serving as an early warning.
15% < K ⩽ 30%	3%	Key regulation zone; targets enterprises with prominent overproduction issues.
K > 30%	5%	Penalty zone; targets severely wasteful production models.

4. Administration and Data Compliance

Taxpayers must submit an audited Apparel Product Production, Sales, Inventory, and Warehouse Age Statistics Table to the tax authorities annually. Large enterprises will be subject to key supervision. A 2-3 year transition period and standardized data tool guidance will be provided for SMEs.

2. Incentive Mechanism: Recycling Responsibility Tax Reduction

To incentivize taxpayers to proactively fulfill recycling responsibilities, a "Recycling Responsibility Reduction" clause is established, allowing them to directly offset tax liabilities through environmental actions.

1. Reduction Basis: Recycling Responsibility Fulfillment Coefficient (R)

`R = (Weight of Waste Textiles Actually Collected and Compliantly Utilized This Year / Weight of Products Placed on the Domestic Market This Year) × 100%`

Requirements for Recycled Materials: Must be products sold domestically under the brand, collected through compliant channels, sorted, and then enter high-value utilization pathways such as material regeneration, chemical recycling, or

remanufacturing.Only donation or second-hand circulation are not counted (or counted with low weight) to guide resources toward material recycling.
Verification Mechanism: The recycled volume must be verified by a third-party institution recognized by the ecological and environmental authorities. Encouragement is given to rely on digital traceability platforms like the "Product Digital Passport" to ensure data authenticity.

2. Tiered Reduction Rules

Basic Reduction:
When `R ⩾ 15%`, the taxpayer may reduce the tax payable by a percentage of `(R × 2)`, with a maximum reduction of 50%.
That is: Reduction Amount = Tax Payable × min(R × 2, 50%).

Excess Reward:
When `R ⩾ 25%` (reaching the national 2025 target), for every additional percentage point beyond 25%, an extra 2 percentage points of reduction reward is granted, up to a maximum reduction of 100% (i.e., full tax exemption).
That is: Reduction Amount = Tax Payable × min(50% + (R - 25%) × 2, 100%).

Example: A brand's calculated eco-tax is 3 million RMB. If its recycling coefficient R reaches 20%, it can reduce `3 million × min(20% × 2, 50%) = 1.2 million RMB, paying 1.8 million RMB. If R reaches 40%, it can achieve a 100% reduction, paying 0 RMB. This mechanism strongly drives brand owners to invest in building recycling systems.

3. Implementation Lever: Graded and Classified Waste Textile Recycling and Regeneration System

To ensure the eco-tax and reduction mechanism can take root, it is essential to simultaneously construct an efficient, transparent physical recycling and industrial support system. This proposal advocates for establishing a recycling and regeneration system characterized by "three-level classification and precise policy implementation."

1. Category A: High-Value, Re-wearable Textiles

Source: Garments collected from households that are relatively new and in good condition.
Pathway: After strict disinfection and sorting at professional sorting centers, they enter regulated second-hand sales channels or charity donation systems.
Policy Support: Encourage brand owners to collaborate with second-hand platforms and charitable organizations to establish reverse logistics. When calculating the R coefficient, this type of recycling can be assigned a certain weight (e.g., 30%) to reflect its social value, but the weight should be lower than that for material regeneration to guide optimal resource allocation.

2. Category B: Single-Composition Industrial Waste (Core for SME Support)

Source: Spinning waste, weaving scraps, cutting table fragments, etc., generated during textile and apparel production processes, with relatively single composition (e.g., pure cotton, pure polyester).
Pathway: This link is key to absorbing SMEs into the circular economy.
Centralized Collection: In industrial clusters (e.g., Zhejiang, Guangdong, Jiangsu), the government or industry associations should establish "Industrial Waste Centralized Collection and Preprocessing Centers" to provide convenient, paid waste collection services for surrounding small factories.
High-Value Utilization: After processing such as physical opening and cleaning, these pure wastes can be made into high-quality recycled fibers for direct use in textile production, achieving a "textile-to-textile product" closed loop. This stage is mainly undertaken by transformed SMEs or specialized regeneration factories.
Policy Innovation—Green Credit Conversion Mechanism:
If brand owners purchase B-category waste or support other supplier SMEs in using/regenerating it, they can receive an additional bonus when calculating their R coefficient (e.g., counted as 120% of the recycled weight).
SMEs regularly selling waste to designated collection centers can obtain "Green Credits." These credits can be used to offset their own environmental-related costs or be purchased by their core supply chain enterprises (brand owners) to enhance the brand owners' R coefficient. This mechanism organically binds the responsibilities of large enterprises with the interests of SMEs.

3. Category C: Low-Value or Blended Waste Textiles

Source: Severely worn or damaged garments from households or textiles with complex blended compositions (e.g., polyester-cotton blends) from household collection.
Pathway: This is the area with current technological bottlenecks and a key focus for overcoming challenges. Requires large-scale, professional sorting and regeneration enterprises to adopt:
Physical Methods: Making insulation materials, soundproofing cotton, geotextiles, etc. (downcycling).
Chemical Methods: Depolymerizing fibers into monomers through depolymerization)technology, then re-polymerizing them into new materials (upcycling, the direction for technological development).
Policy Support: This type of recycling and processing is a key project for R&D and industrialization supported by the "Green Transformation Fund."

4. Funding and Industrial Support Closed Loop: Green Transformation Fund

To ensure the system operates sustainably, all eco-tax revenue will be allocated to the "Textile and Apparel Industry Green Transformation Fund,"implemented as an

earmarked fund for precise targeted support.

1. Fund Uses

Subsidize SMEs: Provide direct subsidies or low-interest loans for small factories to purchase energy/water-saving equipment and waste fabric preprocessing equipment.
Build Recycling Infrastructure: Support the construction and operation of "Industrial Waste Centralized Collection and Preprocessing Centers" in industrial clusters.
Create Market Demand: Used for "Green Procurement" by government agencies, state-owned enterprises, schools, etc., mandating that a certain percentage of workwear, uniforms, etc., must be products made with recycled materials, providing a stable initial market for circular products.
Tackle Key Technologies: Establish special projects to focus on supporting the R&D and industrial demonstration of "bottleneck" technologies such as chemical recycling, automated efficient sorting, and polyester-cotton separation.
Build Data Systems: Support the development and promotion of a national unified waste textile recycling traceability management information platform and the "Product Digital Passport" system.

2. Closed-Loop Logic

The use of the Fund will ultimately feed back into the entire system: Supporting SMEs → improves the quality and efficiency of Category B waste recycling → helps brand owners increase their R coefficient and obtain reductions → incentivizes more brand owners to participate in recycling → generates more Fund revenue → further supports technology and industry. Thus, a self-reinforcing virtuous cycle of policy and market is formed.

Part III: Expected Benefits, Risk Assessment, and Implementation Pathway

1. Expected Benefits

1. Environmental Benefits

Source Reduction: Directly curbs millions of tons of "pre-consumption" waste and ineffective inventory generation.
Resource Conservation:Significantly improves water resource and raw material utilization efficiency. It is estimated that within five years of implementation, the legislation could drive the industry's overall waste textile recycling rate to over 35%.
Emission and Pollution Reduction: Significantly reduces carbon emissions and

environmental pollution caused by landfilling and incineration of textiles.

2. Economic Benefits

Spawning New Industries: Creates a stable market demand worth hundreds of billions for the waste textile collection, sorting, and high-value regeneration industry.
Enhancing Enterprise Efficiency: Forces brand owners to improve supply chain management and product planning precision, fundamentally reducing inventory costs and improving profitability.
Boosting Industrial Upgrade: The "Green Transformation Fund" directly empowers industry technological innovation and SME transformation,cultivating new economic growth points.

3. Social and Strategic Benefits

Promoting Fair Transition:
Through targeted design, allows SMEs to share in the benefits of the green economy, achieving inclusive growth.

Reshaping Brand Image:
Helps Chinese brands accumulate green assets, participate in international competition with a sustainable image, and surmount green trade barriers.

Providing a China Solution:
Contributes an innovative, systematic "China Tax and System Solution" to global fashion industry governance, enhancing international rule-making discourse power.

2. Risk Assessment and Countermeasures

1. Tax Shifting Risk: Brands may shift the tax burden to consumers through price increases.

Countermeasure: Guide green consumption through policy advocacy. Market competition will compel enterprises to prioritize cost reduction by optimizing internal management and investing in recycling technology. In the long run, the cost advantage of compliant enterprises will become apparent.

2. Data Fraud Risk: Enterprises may falsify inventory or recycling data.

Countermeasure: Establish a multi-dimensional supervision system of "Third-party Verification + Government Audit + Digital Traceability (Product Passport)," and set 严厉 (severe) penalties including heavy fines, cancellation of tax benefits, and even market access bans.

3. SME Impact Risk: Compliance costs may create short-term pressure on SMEs.

Countermeasure: Set transition periods, provide free data tools and guidance, offer targeted subsidies through the "Green Transformation Fund," and 通过 (through) mechanisms like "Green Credits" transform them into beneficiaries rather than mere regulated entities.

3. Implementation Pathway Suggestions

It is recommended to adopt a prudent strategy of "Legislation First, Pilot Breakthroughs, Phased Advancement."

1. Short-Term (1-2 years): Legislation and Pilot Preparation

Promote the State Council's legislative affairs department to lead the establishment of an inter-ministerial drafting group to complete the draft of these Regulations.
In textile and apparel industry clusters in Zhejiang (Shaoxing/Wenzhou), Jiangsu, Guangdong, etc., select 1-2 mature parks or cities to conduct comprehensive pilot projects on "Eco-Tax Simulation Calculation and Graded Recycling System."

2. Medium-Term (2-4 years): Pilot Implementation and Evaluation

Formally implement (or simulate) the eco-tax levy and reduction mechanism in pilot areas,while constructing regional graded recycling networks.
Comprehensively test policy effectiveness, enterprise response, and regulatory procedures. Evaluate the actual impact on SMEs and refine the detailed rules for using the "Green Transformation Fund."
Based on pilot experience, complete the final revision of the national regulation and supporting systems.

3. Long-Term (5 years and beyond): Nationwide Rollout and Deepening

Formally promulgate and implement the Regulations on the Levy and Administration of Resource Consumption and Eco-Compensation Tax for the Textile and Apparel Industry nationwide.
Establish a national-level supervision platform for waste textile recycling and utilization and a management institution for the Green Transformation Fund.
Promote the alignment of Chinese standards (e.g., Product Digital Passport, carbon footprint accounting) with international standards, assisting Chinese brands in green 出海 (overseas expansion).

Part IV: Conclusion

Taxing "overproduction," reducing tax for "circular recycling," and building a circular

ecosystem where large and small enterprises co-create and share — this proposal is absolutely not intended to simply increase the industry's burden. Rather, it aims to reshape a set of future-oriented economic rules and competitive tracks for China's textile and apparel industry.

Under this new set of rules, the core competitiveness of enterprises will be redefined: shifting from reliance on scale expansion and speed competition to pursuing resource efficiency, circular technology, green supply chain transparency, and brand sustainability trust. This market mechanism-oriented "surgical operation" aims to precisely remove the industry tumor of "resource waste" and fully activate the industrial vitality of "circular innovation."

We firmly believe that starting with this proposal, through resolute institutional innovation and systematic industrial construction, China is fully capable of successfully transforming from the world's largest apparel producer and consumer into a global leader in green fashion, a source of technology, and a contributor to rules, delivering a brilliant "China Answer Sheet" for achieving global sustainable development goals.

We earnestly request the relevant state departments to deliberate on this proposal.

Esther De Paula Garcia (Brazil)

PROPOSED BILL No. _____, OF 1st of January, 2026.

Educational Efficiency and Transparency Act

Provides for the linking of complementary federal resources to value-added educational outcomes and management efficiency, and establishes the National System for Transparency and Incentives in Basic Education.

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS HEREBY DECREES:

Article 1. This Law establishes the National System for *Transparency and Incentives in Basic Education* (SINTI), creating mechanisms to supplement allocations from the *Fund for the Maintenance and Development of Basic Education and the Valorization of Education Professionals* (FUNDEB) based on school-level progress, efficiency, and the equitable "value-added" growth of students.

Article 2. *The National System for Transparency and Incentives in Basic Education* (SINTI) shall have the following objectives:

I – To annually consolidate and publicly disclose, in an accessible digital platform for each public school unit, data regarding:

a) Student performance, using developmentally appropriate metrics from the *Basic Education Assessment System* (SAEB) for all stages: Early Childhood, Elementary, and High School;

b) Rates of student approval, retention, and dropout;

c) Detailed financial execution of all received public resources;

d) The Basic Education Development Index (IDEB).

II – To calculate and highlight a Value-Added Growth Index for each school, measuring its annual contribution to student learning progress relative to its own baseline, thus prioritizing improvement over absolute scores.

Article 3. The *Educational Efficiency and Equity Incentive* (IEE) is hereby created within the framework of the Union's complement to FUNDEB. This incentive shall be distributed annually to public schools that:

I – Demonstrate, for two consecutive years, positive and continuous growth in their Value-Added Growth Index;

II – Maintain student dropout rates below the median for their state and school type;

III – Certify the full, appropriate, and timely application of resources from the prior fiscal year as per their approved School Development Plan.

Sole Paragraph. Resources from the IEE shall be applied exclusively to:

a) Collective performance bonuses for the teachers, administrators, and staff of the beneficiary school;

b) Direct investments in pedagogical infrastructure, including educational technology, science labs, and library resources;

c) Accredited continuing education and specialization programs for the school's teaching staff.

Article 4. School units that, for three consecutive evaluation cycles, register a decline in their Value-Added Growth Index and fail to meet the criteria of Article 3, shall be subject to:

I – A prioritized and in-depth audit conducted by the Office of the Comptroller General (CGU) in conjunction with the relevant State Court of Accounts, focused on managerial and pedagogical practices;

II – The immediate development and implementation of a Technical and Managerial Intervention Plan, coordinated by the respective State Department of Education with federal support, establishing clear biannual recovery goals and guaranteed support resources.

Article 5. The Federal Executive Branch shall regulate the provisions of this Law within 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from its publication.

Article 6. This Law enters into force on the date of its publication.

JUSTIFICATION

Mr. President, Honorable Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

We submit this legislative proposal driven by a pressing national paradox: Brazil makes significant constitutional investments in education, yet the translation of these resources into tangible learning outcomes remains inconsistent and inequitable. The central challenge before us is no longer merely the volume of funding, but its intelligent, results-oriented, and equitable application.

This Bill, therefore, is founded on a clear and modern principle: to replace passive bureaucratic distribution with active, intelligent investment. We categorically reject simplistic and punitive "high-stakes testing" models that unfairly penalize underprivileged schools and their students for socioeconomic disparities they did not create. Instead, we construct a sophisticated framework based on three interdependent pillars: Radical Transparency, Smart Incentives, and Guaranteed Support.

1. Radical Transparency (SINTI - Article 2): Knowledge is the foundation of accountability. SINTI will create a public, school-by-school dashboard displaying key data on performance, finances, and—most importantly—annual progress. This empowers parents, educators, and society to move beyond anecdote and engage in

informed dialogue about educational quality, transforming citizens into active overseers of the public good.

2. Smart Incentives (IEE - Article 3): The core innovation of this proposal is the *Value-Added Growth Index*. We shift the focus from rewarding privileged starting points to rewarding demonstrable progress. A school in a vulnerable community that dramatically elevates its students' learning trajectory contributes immensely to national development and social justice. Such effort must be recognized and financially rewarded. The IEE channels bonus resources directly into teacher rewards and school infrastructure in these winning institutions, creating a virtuous cycle of improvement.

3. Guaranteed Support (Article 4): For schools facing challenges, the state's role is not abandonment, which would violate our constitutional duty and victimize students. The role is an effective intervention. This law mandates expert audits and structured recovery plans, ensuring that struggle triggers an influx of technical support and managerial guidance, not neglect.

A Tool for Equity and National Development: This proposal is meticulously designed to serve all stages of Basic Education with age-appropriate metrics. Its fundamental socioeconomic purpose is to deliver disproportionate benefits to our most vulnerable students. It does so by: (i) creating a fair metric that rewards schools for the difficult work of uplifting disadvantaged students; (ii) directing bonus resources to the communities where they have the highest marginal impact; and (iii) using transparency to arm communities with evidence for advocacy. This is not a mechanism to widen gaps, but a powerful policy instrument to close them.

In summary, this Bill seeks to modernize the management of Brazil's educational investment. It fosters a culture of continuous improvement, rewards pedagogical

excellence wherever it occurs, and ensures that every student, in every school, has the right to an education that delivers measurable and growing value each year.

For the future of our children and the competitive standing of our nation, we respectfully request the support of this Honorable House for the approval of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Esther de Paula Garcia.

A BILL
entitled

AN ACT to amend the General Elections Act, Cap. 354.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

Short title.

1. The short title of this Act is the General Elections (Amendment) Act, 2026 and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the General Elections Act, hereinafter referred to as the "principal Act".

Cap. 354.

Amendment of article 51 of the principal Act.

2. Article 51 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in sub-article (1), paragraph (a) thereof, immediately after the words "delivered to one of the Commissioners at the Electoral Office" there shall be added the words "together with the form set out in Schedule 9A to this Act duly completed by the candidate";

(b) in sub-article (1), paragraph (b) thereof, immediately after the words "within the period specified in the notice referred to in article 45" there shall be added the words "and shall include the completion and electronic submission of the form set out in Schedule 9A to this Act";

(c) in sub-article (3) thereof immediately after the words "that the nomination" there shall be added the words "or the Candidate Information Form".

Addition of article 51A to the principal Act.

3. Immediately after article 51 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new article 51A:

" 51A. (1) Every candidate shall, at the time of submitting their nomination under article 51(1), submit to the Commission the Candidate Information Form set out in Schedule 9A to this Act.

(2) The Candidate Information Form shall:

(a) where a candidate is nominated in writing under article 51(1)(a), be signed by the candidate himself, (or, in the event of his absence from these Islands, by a duly appointed representative), certifying that the information provided is true, complete, and accurate to the best of the candidate’s knowledge and belief, and be completed in writing and delivered to the Commission together with the nomination paper;

(b) where a candidate is nominated by electronic means under article 51(1)(b), be electronically signed by the candidate, certifying that the information provided is true, complete, and accurate to the best of the candidate’s knowledge and belief, and be completed and submitted electronically through the website in the manner and form established by the Commission.

(3) No nomination shall be deemed valid unless the candidate has submitted the completed form set out in Schedule 9A to this Act in accordance with sub-article (1).

(4) Wherein any information in the Candidate Information Form is deemed missing or incomplete, the Commission shall immediately notify the candidate, who shall have five working days to provide the missing information, failing which the nomination shall be deemed invalid.

(5) The Commission shall, within five working days of the close of nominations, publish on its official website all information submitted by candidates in the Candidate Information Form, in a separate format from the list of nominations. The data obtained through the Candidate Information Form shall remain published and available to the public on the Commission's website for a period not longer than six months after the polling day."

Amendment of article 112 of the principal Act.

4. In paragraph (a) of sub-article (1) of article 112, immediately after the words "destroys any nomination paper" there shall be added the words "or any Candidate Information Form" and immediately after the words "delivers to the Commissioner any nomination paper" there shall be added the words "or any Candidate Information Form".

Adds a new Schedule to the principal Act.

5. Immediately after the Ninth Schedule to the principal Act there shall be added the following new Schedule:

"SCHEDULE 9A

(Article 51A)

Candidate Information Form

Name: _____ Political Party: _____

Residence Locality: _____ Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____

Educational Background

Highest level of education attained:

☐ Primary ☐ Secondary

☐ Sixth-Form ☐ Diploma

☐ Degree ☐ Postgraduate

Field of study:

_____

Employment Information

Current Employment Status:

☐ Employed ☐ Retired

☐ Self-Employed ☐ Student

☐ Unemployed

Current Occupation or Job Title:

_____

Political and Public Service Experience

Previous elected positions held:

_____

_____

Current public appointments held:

_____

_____

Declaration

I certify that the information provided in this form is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that knowingly providing false or misleading information is an offence punishable by fine and may result in disqualification.

Date: _____/_____/_____ Signature: _____

".

Objects and reasons

The objects and reasons of this Bill are to make provision for the enhancement of transparency in elections of Members of the House of Representatives by requiring candidates to provide biographical, educational, and professional information as part of the candidate nomination process. This information will be published by the Commission on its website in a searchable format, enabling voters to make more informed decisions about candidates standing for election. The Bill aligns Malta with best practices in EU member states.

Gesetzesentwurf (Artikelgesetz): Einfügung eines § 118a OWiG

Entwurf eines Gesetzes zur Ahndung sexistischer Belästigung im öffentlichen Raum (Catcalling)

Artikel 1 – Änderung des Gesetzes über Ordnungswidrigkeiten (OWiG)

Nach § 118 OWiG wird folgender § 118a eingefügt:

§ 118a Sexistische Belästigung im öffentlichen Raum

(1) Ordnungswidrig handelt, wer in einem öffentlich zugänglichen Raum eine andere Person gezielt durch Worte, Geräusche oder Gesten in sexueller oder sexistischer Konnotation belästigt, wenn das Verhalten nach den Umständen objektiv geeignet ist,

1. die Würde der betroffenen Person zu verletzen oder
2. eine einschüchternde, feindliche, entwürdigende oder demütigende Situation zu schaffen,

   und es gegen den erkennbaren Willen der betroffenen Person erfolgt oder trotz erkennbarer Ablehnung fortgesetzt wird.

(2) In der Regel liegt ein Fall des Absatzes 1 vor bei

1. sexualbezogenen Aufforderungen oder Kommentaren über Körper/sexuelle Handlungen,
2. obszönen, sexualbezogenen Gesten oder Lauten (z. B. Kussgeräusche) in aufdringlicher Weise,
3. dem aufdringlichen Hinterhergehen oder Abpassen in Verbindung mit Verhalten nach Nummer 1 oder 2.

(3) Die Ordnungswidrigkeit kann mit einer Geldbuße bis zu 2.000 Euro, in Fällen wiederholter Begehung innerhalb von 12 Monaten bis zu 5.000 Euro geahndet werden.

(4) Absatz 1 ist nicht anzuwenden, wenn die Tat nach anderen Vorschriften mit Strafe oder Geldbuße bedroht ist (insbesondere nach dem Strafgesetzbuch).

Artikel 2 – Bericht und Evaluation

Die Bundesregierung berichtet dem Deutschen Bundestag drei Jahre nach Inkrafttreten über Anwendung, Datenlage, Einstellungsquoten und etwaige Verdrängungseffekte (z. B. in Richtung § 185 StGB), mit Vorschlägen zur Anpassung.

Artikel 3 – Inkrafttreten

Inkrafttreten am ersten Tag des auf die Verkündung folgenden Quartals.

Translation:

Draft Act (omnibus statute): insertion of a new § 118a in the Act on Regulatory Offences (OWiG)

Draft Act on Sanctioning Sexist Harassment in Public Spaces (“Catcalling”)

Article 1 – Amendment to the Act on Regulatory Offences (OWiG)

After § 118 OWiG, the following § 118a is inserted:

§ 118a Sexist Harassment in Public Spaces

(1) An administrative offence is committed by any person who, in a publicly accessible place, targets another person with harassment through words, sounds, or gestures of a sexual or sexist connotation, where, in the circumstances, the conduct is objectively capable of

1. violating the dignity of the affected person, or
2. creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, or humiliating situation,

   and where the conduct is carried out against the discernible will of the affected person or is continued despite discernible rejection.

(2) A case under subsection (1) shall generally be deemed to exist where the conduct involves:

1. sexualised solicitations or comments about the body/sexual acts,
2. obscene sexualised gestures or sounds (e.g., kissing noises) in an intrusive manner,
3. intrusive following or lying-in-wait in conjunction with conduct under nos. 1 or 2.

(3) The administrative offence may be punished by a fine of up to EUR 2,000, and, in cases of repeated commission within 12 months, up to EUR 5,000.

(4) Subsection (1) shall not apply where the act is punishable under other provisions by criminal penalty or administrative fine (in particular under the Criminal Code).

Article 2 – Reporting and Evaluation

Three years after entry into force, the Federal Government shall report to the German Bundestag on application, data availability, discontinuation rates, and any displacement effects (e.g., towards insult offences under § 185 StGB), with proposals for adjustment.

Article 3 – Entry into force

This Act enters into force on the first day of the quarter following promulgation.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Title: An Act to prohibit forced arbitration of racial and religious discrimination claims in employment.

1. Problem to be Solved Current Nevada employment contracts force victims of racial and religious discrimination into secret, binding arbitration. While federal law (the *Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021*) protects victims of sexual misconduct, no such protection exists for victims of racial or religious hate. This proposal closes that loophole.

2. Proposed Statutory Language

(Drafted following the "General Template" and "Amendatory" guidelines)

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY ARBITRATION FOR DISCRIMINATION.

(a) General Rule. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employer may not require an employee to arbitrate a dispute arising from a claim of discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin as a condition of employment or continued employment.

(b) Enforceability. Any provision in a contract or agreement that violates subsection (a) is void and unenforceable as against the public policy of this State.

(c) Retaliation Prohibited. An employer may not retaliate against an employee for refusing to sign an agreement that contains a provision prohibited by subsection (a).

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act:

1. **"Employer"** means any person or entity that employs one or more persons in this State.
2. **"Discrimination Claim"** means any claim alleging a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Chapter 613 of the Nevada Revised Statutes related to race, color, religion, or national origin.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect upon enactment and applies to any dispute or claim that arises or accrues on or after the date of enactment.

Home Care Support and Freedom of Choice Act – Academic Version

Title: Legislative Proposal – Home Care Support and Freedom of Choice Act (Italy)

Prepared by: Dilettoso Carmela, TAU, Tel Aviv

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1. Introduction & Rationale

Unpaid caregiving and household work are essential social contributions that remain largely unrecognized in Italy. Women often bear the majority of these responsibilities, but all individuals, regardless of gender, should have the freedom to choose whether and how to engage in caregiving without being forced by economic necessity.

The proposed Home Care Support and Freedom of Choice Act aims to:

- Recognize caregiving and domestic work as socially valuable contributions.
- Provide continuous financial support to primary caregivers, whether male or female.
- Guarantee freedom of choice between paid employment, caregiving, or a combination of both, ensuring that no one is forced to give up employment or caregiving due to financial pressure.
- Promote gender equality by encouraging shared caregiving responsibilities, reducing the disproportionate burden on women.

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2. Context and Policy Background

Italy has one of the oldest populations in the European Union and OECD: as of early 2025, people aged 65 and over accounted for about 24.7% of the population, with rising long-term care needs and functional limitations among older adults. The care landscape combines public services and substantial informal support from families and personal caregivers (OECD, 2025).

Data from national sources also indicate that Italy has significant numbers of domestic workers, more than half of whom are engaged in elder care, reflecting both the ageing population and the central role of care work in the Italian labour context (ANSA, 2025).

Despite these realities, unpaid caregiving remains largely invisible in social protection systems, leading to economic insecurity and reduced opportunities for caregivers — particularly women — who often reduce paid work or exit the labour market entirely.

This Act explicitly ensures freedom of choice in caregiving and employment for all genders, and encourages men and women to share caregiving responsibilities.

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3. Draft Bill (Articles 1–8)

Article 1 – Purpose

Individuals shall have the right to freely choose whether to engage in paid employment, provide caregiving, or combine both, without economic coercion.
This law applies to all genders, ensuring that men and women alike can access support for caregiving responsibilities and exercise freedom of choice in work and care.

Article 2 – Home Care Support Salary
A government-funded Home Care Support Salary shall be provided to eligible primary caregivers.

- The salary shall be non-taxable.
- It shall be proportional if combined with part-time work.
- Care hours must be certified through a simplified self-declaration process validated by INPS or authorized entities, as regulated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.
- This support is available to caregivers of any gender, ensuring equal opportunity to choose caregiving.

Article 3 – Eligibility

Eligible caregivers are those who provide at least 20 hours per week of primary care to:

- Children of any age;
- Elderly or disabled relatives (with recognized certification);
- Spouses or family members requiring regular assistance.

Caregivers of any gender may combine benefits with employment or study without losing the right to financial support or freedom of choice.

Article 4 – Duration and Flexibility

The support salary shall be provided for the entire period the individual is a primary caregiver. Flexible arrangements are encouraged to promote shared caregiving responsibilities and the freedom to balance work and care.

Article 5 – Equality and Non-Discrimination

Caregivers shall not be discriminated against by employers. Beneficiaries are guaranteed return to prior or equivalent employment after caregiving.
The law ensures equal rights for men and women and protects the freedom to choose caregiving as a valid personal and professional option.

Article 6 – Funding

A Home Care Support Fund, administered by INPS, shall be financed through:

- Reallocation of family and social support budgets;
- Progressive taxation on higher incomes;
- Savings from reduced institutional care expenditure, estimated based on average national costs.

Article 7 – Oversight

The Ministry of Family and Social Policies shall establish an agency to administer benefits, monitor compliance, and publish annual reports, including data on gender distribution and care arrangements.

Article 8 – Effective Date

The law shall enter into force one year after approval. A six-month pilot program may be implemented in selected regions (Lombardy, Lazio, Sicily).

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4. Expected Impact and Rationalization

Italy's demographic shifts — a growing share of older adults and rising care needs — create a structural context in which family caregiving is central to societal well-being. Informal caregiving compensates for gaps in formal long-term care services, but without financial support, caregivers face economic insecurity and reduced labour market participation (OECD, 2025).

Recognizing that women currently perform the majority of unpaid caregiving responsibilities, this law ensures that men also have equal access to financial support and the right to provide care, promoting shared responsibility. Crucially, all individuals shall have the right to freely choose whether to work, provide care, or combine both, without being forced by economic necessity.

By recognizing caregiving and enabling freedom of choice, this Act aims to:

- Strengthen economic independence for caregivers;
- Reduce gender inequality in labour market outcomes;
- Enhance recognition of care work's social value;
- Support shared caregiving responsibilities between men and women.

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Joan Otieno (Kenya)

To: The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services

State of Israel

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Joan Anyango Otieno, an international Master's student from Kenya studying Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Tel Aviv University, an Irwin Cotler Fellow, and a parent directly affected by the matter addressed in this proposal. I respectfully submit this proposal for legislative consideration regarding the application of income-based daycare fee subsidies for international students whose children are enrolled in daycare centers in Israel.

International graduate students constitute an important component of Israel's academic and research programs, contributing significantly to scientific innovation, higher education output, and the global reputation of Israeli institutions. However, many international student families face financial hardship due to the high cost of childcare, especially within accredited daycare frameworks such as WIZO.

At present, daycare fees at daycare centers are very expensive for many international families. International students receive modest monthly stipends that are designed only to cover basic living expenses. These stipends are often insufficient to cover the full-cost daycare fees. International students are also not permitted to work thus eliminating any opportunity to supplement their income. As a result, many international student parents experience significant economic strain, which directly affects their wellbeing, academic productivity, and capacity to focus on research and training.

In light of these circumstances, I propose the enactment of legislation that would allow daycare fees for international students enrolled in daycare centers to be calculated based on verified household income, using a sliding-scale or income-based assessment model. Such a framework would align daycare costs with the actual financial capacity of international student families, ensuring greater equity and accessibility.

This proposed legislation will reduce financial distress among international student families and support the welfare of their children. It will also enable student parents to devote appropriate attention to their academic and research responsibilities without the constant pressure of meeting basic childcare needs. This will furthermore reinforce Israel's commitment to inclusivity, academic excellence, and the retention of highly skilled international researchers and scholars.

Adopting an income-based daycare fee structure for international students would represent a targeted, responsible, and socially beneficial policy intervention. I respectfully urge the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services to consider this proposal and initiate the necessary legislative processes to address this pressing issue.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to social welfare and educational advancement in Israel.

Yours faithfully,

Joan Otieno

Strengthening Holocaust, Antisemitism, and Anti-Racism Education in Victoria

Statement of Purpose

According to multiple reports, including the JCCV and CSG, there has been a steady increase in antisemitic incidents across Victoria over the last 5 years, both in the streets and in schools. We saw a culmination of what antisemitic rhetoric and lack of education and action can lead to in the Bondi massacre a few weeks ago.

While the Holocaust is currently taught in Years 9–10, there is no mandatory framework linking historical education to contemporary antisemitism or broader anti-racism education.

This proposal aims to:

- Introduce age-appropriate education on the Holocaust, antisemitism, and anti-racism for Years 7–9.

- Build understanding and resilience against prejudice, discrimination, and hate in Victorian schools.

Key Provisions

A. Curriculum Requirements

1. **Years 7–9**: Schools must deliver mandatory units on:
    - The history of the Holocaust and its global impact.
    - Understanding antisemitism and other forms of prejudice, historically and today.
    - Anti-racism education, including developing empathy, critical thinking, and civic responsibility.
2. **Contemporary Relevance**: Lessons must include examples of modern antisemitism, racism, and online hate, emphasizing responsibility and social cohesion.

B. Teacher Professional Development

1. All teachers delivering these units must undertake approved training in:

    - Holocaust history and contemporary antisemitism.
    - Anti-racism pedagogy and bias awareness.
    - Trauma-informed teaching methods suitable for sensitive content.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased student knowledge of Holocaust history and contemporary antisemitism.
- Reduced prejudice, bias, and discrimination in schools.
- Teachers equipped with the skills and confidence to teach sensitive and complex topics.

Kurt Mueller (US)

Access to public transportation remains limited for many in Portage County, particularly communities such as Aurora which are removed from any fixed route bus systems. While services such as Dial-A-Ride (DART) do expand access beyond the existing PARTA network, the fares for these essential services can still be a barrier for many citizens, particularly lower-income individuals, many of whom rely on such transportation for access to work, education, and healthcare.

As such, I propose that the Ohio General Assembly introduce **a bill requiring public transport authorities to provide free or reduced-fare rides to low-income individuals**. Main elements of this proposal would include:

- Application to all fixed routes and DART services.
- Eligibility for individuals and households at or below 150% of the defined Federal Poverty Level.
- Verification through Medicaid enrollment (already accepted by PARTA services), SNAP/EBT cards, tax filings, or other means.
- State grants and subsidies to transit authorities would be dependent on implementation and potentially adjusted to offset losses.
- Transit authorities would submit annual reports regarding ridership and usage to ensure transparency and evaluate real-world impact.

This proposal would increase economic opportunity and access to essential services for many lower-income Ohioans, while also increasing the visibility of public infrastructure and demonstrating proactive governmental support for the quality of life of its citizens. I believe this initiative will have a positive, long-term social, economic, and environmental impact on our district.

Legislative Proposal: The State Education Law (Amendment – Education for Shared Citizenship and Historical Literacy), 2025

1. Addition of Section 2A In the State Education Law, 5713-1953 (hereinafter: "The Main Law"), after Section 2, the following shall be inserted:

> **"2A. Mandatory Study Unit: History of the Arab Society"**
>
> (a) The Minister of Education shall establish a mandatory study unit within the history or civics curriculum for upper secondary schools (Grades 10–12) in the State Education sector.
>
> (b) The unit shall focus on the history, society, and culture of the Arab population in the Land of Israel prior to the establishment of the State, and the changes that occurred to this population during and following 1948.
>
> (c) The content of this unit shall be developed by a professional committee appointed by the Minister, comprising historians and educators from both Jewish and Arab society, to ensure historical accuracy and the representation of diverse narratives."

2. Amendment to Section 4 (Curriculum) In Section 4 of the Main Law, at the end, the following shall be added:

> "The curriculum in all State educational institutions shall include the unit specified in Section 2A, adapted to the age of the students."

Explanatory Notes:

Purpose of the Bill: The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the democratic resilience of the State of Israel and foster social cohesion between its Jewish and Arab citizens.

The Rationale: The State of Israel is home to a Jewish majority and a significant Arab minority, both sharing a single citizenship. However, the current educational system leaves Jewish students with a "blind spot" regarding the history of their Arab fellow citizens. This creates a vacuum often filled by fear, stereotypes, and alienation.

Currently, the average graduate of the Jewish state education system learns the history of the Zionist movement but learns almost nothing about the Arab society that existed here alongside it. One cannot understand the current reality of the State without understanding the history of the villages, the demographics, and the societal collapse of 1948 that shaped the Arab minority's consciousness.

Valerie Nicolas Kruyer (Haiti/US)

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Valerie Nicolas Kruyer. I was born and raised in Haiti until the age of ten. I am writing to you with respect, but also with urgency, regarding the continued use of corporal punishment against children in Haiti, despite its legal prohibition.

I am aware that in **2001, Haiti passed a law explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in schools, childcare settings, and penal institutions**. However, my lived experience and the experiences of many other Haitians of my generation demonstrate that this law has not been effectively enforced.

While I was growing up in Haiti, corporal punishment was still widely practiced in schools, even after this law was passed. These punishments were not only physically painful but deeply humiliating. They leave scars that do not simply disappear with time.

In school, mistakes were not treated as opportunities to learn, but as reasons to be punished. I remember being hit and disciplined in front of my entire classroom for writing too small. Instead of being taught how to improve my handwriting, I was made an example. That moment did not teach me how to write better; it taught me fear.

This kind of punishment teaches children to fear authority figures instead of trusting them. It teaches children that the moment they make a mistake, they will be punished, not guided. Over time, this creates students who are afraid to ask questions, afraid to try, and afraid to learn. Education becomes something associated with shame and fear rather than growth.

I recognize that this system did not come from nowhere. Many of the adults enforcing these punishments were themselves disciplined in the same way. This is a cycle of trauma, hurt people hurting others, and unless it is intentionally broken, it continues from one generation to the next.

Corporal punishment is not only a problem in schools. I was also a victim of and a witness to punishment at home that went far beyond discipline and crossed into harm. Later in life, after moving to the United States, I often heard people joke about getting a “whooping” as children. Those stories sounded light, even humorous. They made me realize just how extreme and normalized punishment in Haiti had been by comparison. What many Haitian children experience is not discipline; it is violence.

These experiences stay with people. Many Haitians I speak to carry the same memories. As adults, we must unlearn fear of authority, unlearn silence, and relearn that adults and institutions are meant to protect and guide us, not harm us. This burden should not exist. Children should not have to spend adulthood healing from what was done to them in childhood.

For these reasons, I believe the issue in Haiti is not the absence of law, but the **absence of enforcement**. The current situation reflects a **systemic enforcement gap**, not because the law is wrong, but because the systems to monitor, report, and enforce it are weak or nonexistent.

In addition to Haiti's domestic legislation, Haiti is also a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which obligates governments to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence and to ensure that discipline in educational settings respects the dignity and rights of the child. The continued use of corporal punishment and the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms, therefore, raise not only national concerns but also concerns related to Haiti's international human rights commitments.

I respectfully propose the following actions:

1. **Establish independent reporting mechanisms**, separate from schools, so that students and caregivers can report incidents of corporal punishment directly to a government body responsible for enforcement.
2. **Implement consistent monitoring** of schools and childcare institutions to ensure compliance with the law, including unannounced visits and audits.
3. **Enforce meaningful consequences** for adults who violate the prohibition on corporal punishment, including removing the ability to teach or care for children if they repeatedly harm children.
4. **Mandate regular trauma-informed training** for teachers and school staff, providing alternatives to physical punishment and addressing the deep-rooted cycles of harm.
5. **Begin formal steps toward extending protection to the home environment**, recognizing that children deserve safety not only in institutions, but within their families as well.

You cannot simply ban a practice and expect it to disappear. Especially with an issue as deeply ingrained as corporal punishment, enforcement, education, and accountability are essential. Without them, the law exists only on paper.

I write this letter not only as someone who lived through this system, but as someone who believes Haiti can do better for its children. Protecting children is not only a moral obligation but also an investment in the country's future. I believe that by strengthening enforcement and training around corporal punishment laws, Haiti can protect its children, create safer school environments, and help our future generations heal and thrive.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Best regards,
Valerie Nicolas Kruyer
Email: Valeriekruyer@outlook.com

Rahul Chotai (Kenya)

To: Member of National Assembly, Luanda, Kenya- Hon. Ernest Ogesi Kivai

Dear Sir,

My name is Rahul Chotai, a constituent of Vihiga County in Kenya, and on behalf of all Vihiga constituents I kindly submit a proposal for THE COUNTY ALLOCATION OF REVENUE BILL, 2026

Currently, there are several functions devolved to the counties especially Health and Education among others which are very crucial for all constituents of Vihiga County.

Consequently, considering the above, I would like to propose for allocation of above 50 percent of the national budget to be devolved to the counties to comprehensively handle the needs for all constituents of Vihiga County and by large all Kenyans. This would further the accessibility of health and education facilities to all constituents.

The proposed change in Bill (2026) will improve education and health services of all Vihiga constituents especially women and children. This could reduce pressure on parents and children of Vihiga Constituency.

Thank you in advance for kindly considering my proposal for the upcoming 2026 Bill, and your continuing assistance and alliegence to constituents of Luanda County.

Yours sincerely,

Rahul Chotai

Sara Weissel (UK)

Hello,

My name is Sara Weissel and I am a Bar Harbor resident, I live on Less Traveled Road.

Recently, I have been working abroad, at the Jerusalem Food Rescuers – an organisation that saves produce about to be thrown away from wholesale food markets, sorts it, and then redistributes the edible leftovers for free throughout the city.

Bar Harbor currently has similar programs – which I have visited– revolving around food waste and redistribution, such as the: Bar Harbor Food Pantry, MDI Produce Exchange and Open Table MDI. These are the kinds of programs that make me, as a citizen, very proud; they combine the unique agricultural situation of MDI with initiatives that promote sustainable and nutritional good. And as the Federal Government's recent threats to programs like SNAP reveal that welfare isn't the guarantee we all think it is, I feel honoured to live in a place that is putting care for its citizens first.

But, this experience at the Jerusalem Food Rescuers has given me a lot of food for thought on how much food waste actually exists in our society – and how one of the main issues in rescuing/redistribution programs is reluctance of business to actually donate food. In 1996, the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act was passed by Congress to help tackle this issue. The Act encourages food donation by "offering civil and criminal liability protection to food donors and nonprofits receiving donated food, as long as the food is apparently wholesome and donated in good faith."

This piece of legislation has greatly reduced barriers to food rescuing, as it removes anxiety around restaurants and NGOs about being held liable for food-borne illnesses. However, it isn't perfect. There is room for improvement in two areas:

1. **Expand coverage** to include individuals, and not just non-profits. This will enable smaller organisations to participate in the rescuing as well as enable restaurants to redistribute the themselves to anyone who needs, without needing a third party;
2. **Raise public awareness** by:
    1. requiring food inspectors working in Bar Harbor to inform restaurants and business of this protection to promote them actually taking advantage of it;
    2. setting aside public education funds on this topic to encourage residents of Bar Harbor to take advantage of this law

I believe an act of legislation expanding the coverage of this law in these areas can make huge improvements in reducing food waste and fighting hunger in Bar Harbor. My hope is that the Town of Bar Harbor would be willing to propose an ordinance outlining expanded coverage in these areas, helping not only its citizens, but modeling the way forward for towns all over Maine.

I would be very happy to hear from you how this proposal fits into the needs of Bar Harbor and with your feedback, work on drafting something more concrete and specific. If you have any questions, or would like to look at further research in this area, please let me know.

I look forward to your reply,

Sara Weissel

Recognition and Accommodation of Minority Religious Holidays Act, 2026

To:
The Honorable Yariv Levin
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Minister of Religious Services
Government of Israel

From:
Bhavana Velpula
Postdoctoral Researcher
Tel Aviv University
Irwin Cotler Fellow 2026

Date: January 1, 2026

Subject: Submission of Draft Bill: Recognition and Accommodation of Minority Religious Holidays Act

Summary:
We respectfully submit for your consideration a proposed draft bill to formally recognize minority religious holidays and ensure reasonable accommodation in both public and private sectors. The draft is grounded in Israeli Basic Laws, supported by Supreme Court jurisprudence, and informed by international best practices.

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Executive Summary

Israel is home to a diverse population, with minority religious communities observing festivals such as Christmas, Easter, and Ramadan. Currently, there is no comprehensive legislative framework guaranteeing recognition and accommodation of these holidays in workplaces, schools, or public institutions.

This draft bill seeks to fill that gap by:

- Formally recognizing minority religious holidays;
- Granting employees and students the right to leave or flexible arrangements on these holidays;
- Requiring both public and private institutions to make reasonable accommodations;
- Providing protections against discrimination;
- Aligning with Israeli Basic Laws and Supreme Court precedents (*Bagatz 955/94*, *Bagatz 3216/99*, *Bagatz 593/09*);
- Incorporating best practices from democracies such as Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Draft Bill: Recognition and Accommodation of Minority Religious Holidays Act, 2026

Purpose:
To ensure the recognition and reasonable accommodation of religious holidays observed by minority religious communities in Israel, consistent with the State of Israel's Basic Laws, democratic values, and Supreme Court precedents.

Citations:

- **Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty**, 1992
- **Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation**, 1994
- Relevant Supreme Court rulings:
    - *Bagatz 955/94, Kol Ha'am v. Minister of Education*: freedom of religion and equality in educational contexts
    - *Bagatz 3216/99, Mizrahi Bank v. Employee*: reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination in employment
    - *Bagatz 593/09, Arab Local Authorities v. Ministry of Interior*: minority rights and cultural protection

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Section 1 – Definitions

1. "Minority religious community" – a religious community recognized under Israeli law whose members observe religious holidays other than the official state holidays.
2. "Religious holiday" – a day of religious significance observed by a minority religious community.
3. "Employer" – any public or private sector employer, including government ministries, municipalities, public educational institutions, and private organizations.
4. "Employee or student" – any individual subject to employment or educational obligations under Israeli law.

Section 2 – Recognition of Religious Holidays

1. The State of Israel shall formally recognize the principal religious holidays of minority religious communities.
2. Recognition shall entail respect and reasonable accommodation by employers and public institutions, consistent with democratic values and human dignity.

Section 3 – Right to Religious Leave

1. Employees and students shall be entitled to take leave on recognized minority religious holidays without penalty, loss of pay, or academic disadvantage.
2. Leave may be arranged through flexible mechanisms, including:
   a. Designated religious leave days
   b. Alternative scheduling of work, exams, or deadlines
   c. Other mutually agreed-upon accommodations
3. Employers and educational institutions shall seek to implement accommodations in a manner that balances operational feasibility with individual rights, following principles articulated in *Bagatz 3216/99*.

Section 4 – Duty of Reasonable Accommodation

1. All employers, whether public or private, shall make reasonable accommodations to enable the observance of minority religious holidays.
2. Accommodation measures may include:
   a. Adjusted work schedules
   b. Alternative examination or academic schedules
   c. Flexible attendance or participation requirements
3. Employers and institutions are not required to implement accommodations that would impose disproportionate hardship, in accordance with *Bagatz 955/94* and *Bagatz 593/09*.

Section 5 – Non-Discrimination

1. No individual shall be subjected to discrimination, adverse treatment, or disadvantage due to observance of a recognized minority religious holiday.
2. Protections apply in employment, education, and access to public services, consistent with the principles of equality under **Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty**.
3. Complaint mechanisms shall be made available for violations of this Section, including appeals to labor courts, administrative tribunals, or the Supreme Court.

Section 6 – Implementation and Oversight

1. Relevant ministries shall issue detailed guidelines for implementation in both public and private sectors.
2. Awareness and training programs shall be conducted for employers, educational administrators, and public officials.
3. Ministries shall periodically review compliance and publish reports evaluating effectiveness.
4. The Minister of Justice, in consultation with the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, shall oversee enforcement of this Act.

Section 7 – Interpretation

This Act shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with:

- Israel's Basic Laws
- Democratic principles
- Supreme Court rulings on religious freedom, minority rights, and reasonable accommodation
- International norms and comparative practices from democratic states (e.g., Canada, United Kingdom, United States)

Footnotes and References

Basic Laws:

1. **Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty**, 5752-1992
2. **Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation**, 5754-1994

Supreme Court (Bagatz) Cases:

1. *Bagatz 955/94, Kol Ha'am v. Minister of Education* – affirmed the right to freedom of religion and equality in education.
2. *Bagatz 3216/99, Mizrahi Bank v. Employee* – recognized reasonable accommodation in employment to avoid discrimination.
3. *Bagatz 593/09, Arab Local Authorities v. Ministry of Interior* – underscored protection of minority rights and cultural practices.

Comparative Practices:

1. Canada: Religious leave and accommodation policies under the Canadian Human Rights Act.
2. United Kingdom: Equality Act 2010 – requires reasonable accommodation for religious observance.

United States: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – mandates reasonable accommodation for religious practices in employment unless undue hardship occurs

Linjuan Song (China)

关于修订《中华人民共和国民法典》婚姻家庭编的立法建议书

致：全国人民代表大会

案由： 建议取消离婚冷静期，设立婚前查询及冷静期，以落实“严进宽出”的婚姻登记原则，保障公民婚姻自由与知情权。

建议草案内容：

一、 废除离婚冷静期

- **建议事项：** 删除《中华人民共和国民法典》第一千零七十七条关于“离婚冷静期”的规定。
- **理由：** 现行三十天离婚冷静期限制了公民的离婚自由。在涉及家庭暴力、赌博等高风险情形下，该期限增加了受害方的脱困成本与安全隐患。废除该条款有助于回归婚姻自由本质，减少因“恐婚”导致的结婚率下降。

二、 设立婚前告知与查询期

- **建议事项：** 在《民法典》第一千零四十六条后增加条款，规定：“男女双方申请结婚登记后，设立三十日‘婚前告知期’。在此期间，双方有权通过民政部门互查对方的重大疾病史、犯罪记录及个人征信状况。”
- **理由：**
    1. **保障知情权：** 防止一方隐瞒重大病史、债务或犯罪记录导致骗婚悲剧。
    2. **源头治理：** 将“冷静”前置，让双方在充分了解的基础上理性结合，从源头上减少冲动结婚带来的离婚风险。

生效日期： 本修正案自公布之日起一年后施行。

Legislative Proposal on Amending the Marriage and Family Section of the Civil Code

To: The National People's Congress (NPC)

Subject: Proposal to abolish the divorce cooling-off period and establish a pre-marital notification period, aiming to implement a "Strict Entry, Easy Exit" principle for marriage registration to protect citizens' freedom of marriage and right to know.

Draft Proposal:

Section 1: Abolition of Divorce Cooling-off Period

- **Proposal:** Repeal Article 1077 of the *Civil Code of the People's Republic of China*, which mandates a 30-day cooling-off period for consensual divorce.
- **Rationale:** The current cooling-off period restricts the freedom of divorce. In cases involving domestic violence or gambling, the delay increases safety risks and exit costs for the vulnerable party. Abolishing this clause will restore the essence of marital freedom and alleviate the "fear of marriage" that contributes to declining marriage rates.

Section 2: Introduction of Pre-Marital Notification Period

- **Proposal:** Add a new clause following Article 1046 of the *Civil Code*. It shall stipulate: "After applying for marriage registration, a 30-day 'Pre-Marital Notification Period' shall be established. During this period, both parties are entitled to access the other party's critical information, including major medical history, criminal records, and credit status, through legal channels facilitated by the Civil Affairs Department."
- **Rationale:**
    1. **Right to Know:** To prevent marital fraud caused by the concealment of major diseases, significant debts, or criminal history.
    2. **Source Governance:** Shifting the "cooling-off" phase to the pre-marriage stage ensures that unions are formed on a basis of full understanding and rationality, thereby reducing the risk of divorce caused by impulsive marriages.

Effective Date: This amendment shall take effect one year after its promulgation.