

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

113TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 113-___

Resolution to Approve Regulations for the Academic Competition

Whereas, pursuant to House Resolution 77, the Academic Competition Resolution of 2013, the House of Representatives directed the Committee on House Administration to adopt regulations governing the Academic Competition,

Whereas, as technology changes, the competition will evolve over time and will challenge students in specialized areas of science, technology, engineering and math. The competition will initially challenge students to develop so-called “apps” for mobile, tablet, or computer devices,

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the Committee adopts the following regulations:

Regulations for the Academic Competition

Title 1. Regarding the App.

Platform

Students in the competition may choose a generally available technology platform, such as a mobile, tablet, or computer device, on which to develop their submissions.

Conduct of Contest

The Committee on House Administration shall appoint a Member or group of Members to serve as chairs or co-chairs of the Academic Competition. The Committee on House Administration may also appoint an outside group of experts in the STEM fields to assist the chair or co-chairs in setting guidelines and rules for the Academic Competition. All such guidelines and rules must be approved by the Committee on House Administration.

The rules shall include provisions on name of the contest; the periods of the contest; the appointment of judges; and any other provision necessary for the conduct of the competition.

Disclaimer on Endorsement

The House of Representatives does not endorse or recommend any commercial products, process, or services. For the period of the academic competition and the display of the

submissions by the House, a contestant may not seek to market or manufacture the submitted app for commercial use. A contestant may not make any reference to the academic competition nor imply an endorsement from the House for the purpose of marketing or manufacturing the submitted app.

Use of app for Contest

By submitting an app for the academic competition, a contestant expressly agrees that for the period of the contest, submitted apps are available free of charge for the conduct of the competition. The apps will be judged by the Members or their designee(s) and displayed by the House during that period. The contestant retains ownership rights of the submitted app.

Characteristics of Apps

Submitted apps may not be indecent, immoral, defamatory, vulgar, pornographic, in obvious bad taste, or demonstrate a lack of respect for public morals. Submitted apps may not be illegal under applicable federal and state laws.

Title 2. District Contest

Resources

The Member office may operate the district competition using only the MRA or personal funds. In accordance with House Rules, the Member office may not accept any outside support or funding in conducting the competition and awards program except as specifically provided below.

Contestants

Contestants in the district competition must be eligible to enroll as students in a school located within the boundaries of the district from which the Member is elected. Contestants in the competition must be legal residents.

Judges

A Member office may seek advice from outside experts in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for the purposes of establishing criteria for the selection of competition judges and for the judging of competition submissions. The Member will establish the judging process.

Outside Sponsors of the Competition

Member offices may not list an outside party as a co-sponsor or supporter. The office may not in any way endorse or promote a third party with official resources.

Franking

A Member office may use the frank to mail official information about the Academic competition, including but not limited to, the notification to students, recruitment of judges, rules, deadlines and notices of official events regarding the competition. A Member office must obtain an Advisory Opinion in order to mail 500 or more unsolicited pieces of mail or e-mail.

MRA

The Academic Competition is an official activity of the House. A Member office may use the MRA to hold an event to display and judge the submissions to the district competition. A Member office may also allow staff time and use of official resources to plan and conduct a district competition. Use of the MRA is subject to the limitations outlined by Title 2 of the U.S. Code and regulations promulgated by the Committee on House Administration.

Advertising

A Member office may purchase advertising for a competition event or for information about the Academic competition. The advertisement regulations in the Members Handbook apply.

Gifts and Awards

A Member office may provide authorized gifts or awards of nominal value as part of the Academic competition. Gifts authorized by the Members' Handbook include certificates, folders, and frames of a nominal value. Outside from the items listed above, an office may not use the MRA to purchase any other prizes as these are considered gifts.

Personal Funds

Subject to the rules and regulations of the House, Members may use their own personal funds to supplement the MRA and the costs of conducting a district competition.