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# Researching and Compiling Federal Legislative History

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# Researching and Compiling Federal Legislative History

Adeen Postar

Advanced Legal Research Techniques

929-001

Spring 2012

# What is a Federal Legislative History?

- A federal legislative history is a compilation of legislative documents that precede the enactment of a U.S. Public Law
- It should include documents produced at each stage of the legislative process
- Documents can include committee reports, debates, earlier texts, floor amendments, congressional hearings, and committee documents

# How are Legislative Histories Used?

- Legislative histories are used by federal agencies, attorneys and courts to interpret a law
- At the very least a legislative history can tell you about the general purpose of a law or a particular title in a law
- It may be difficult to decipher congressional intent from a legislative history

# Other ways that Legislative Histories are used

- To aid a court in its interpretation of statutory language, but only if:
  - **Statutory language is unclear on its face**
  - In aid of construction...if the meaning to be uncertain to have recourse to the legislative history of the measure and the statements of those in charge of it (US v. Great Northern Ry., 287 U.S. 144 (1932) )BUT “we do not resort to legislative history to cloud a statutory text that is clear.” (Ratzlaf v. US, 510 U.S. 135, 147-148 (1994))
- To track a pending bill as it moves through Congress
  - **By lobbyists and other issue advocates to track bills of interest to their clients**

# More on Statutory Interpretation

- See “Statutory Interpretation” General Principles and Recent Trends (CRS 2008) at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/97-589.pdf>
- Leading treatise is ***Statutes and Statutory Construction*** 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Reserve KF 425.S25) 9 vols and on Westlaw
- See also Executive Order 12988, 61 Fed. Reg. 4729 (February 5, 1996), reprinted in 28 U.S.C. Sec. 519 which directs agencies to “make every reasonable effort to ensure” that proposed legislation is in “clear” language.

# Finding Compiled Federal Legislative Histories

# Library Holdings

- *Union List of Legislative Histories*, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed., Washington, D.C.: Law Librarians' Society of DC (2000). [KF4 .U55](#)
- Nancy Johnson, *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories*, William Hein & Co., 2000—. Biennial. [KF42.2 1979](#) (Also available on [HeinOnline](#))
- Bernard Reams, *Federal Legislative Histories: An Annotated Bibliography*, Greenwood Press (1994). Out-of-Print. [KF42.2 1994](#)
- *Legislative Histories Indexed Guide*, Englewood, Colo.: Information Handling Services, 1977. [KF 42 1977](#)
- *CIS Annual Legislative Histories*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Information Service, [KF49 .C62](#) .
- Search LEAGLE using keywords



# Lexis and Westlaw Resources

- LexisNexis
  - Selected Histories on appropriations, tax and other laws, as well as links from its CIS legislative history abstracts.
  - CIS Legislative Histories, 1970—. ([CISLH](#))
- LexisNexis Congressional (*Now ProQuest Congressional*)
  - Offers Legislative histories for all federal acts since the 91<sup>st</sup> Congress, with links to full text legislative documents
  - Available from the [Pence Law Library Website](#) > [Information Resources, A to Z](#) > [LexisNexis Congressional \(Now ProQuest Congressional\)](#)
- Westlaw
  - Includes histories from the law firm of Arnold & Porter and links from public laws to select committee reports and other legislative documents since 1974
  - Premium service contains more than 1800 Government Accountability Office legislative histories.
  - US GAO Federal Legislative Histories ([FED-LH](#))

# Other Electronic Resources

- HeinOnline:
  - [Sources of compiled Legislative Histories Database](#)
  - [HeinOnline's U.S. Federal Legislative History Library](#)
  - Numerous legislative histories from published sources as well as the digitized private collection of Covington & Burling
- [LLSDC Legislative Sourcebook](#) has links to 25 legislative histories of U.S. Laws available for free on the internet in [\*Legislative Histories of Selected U.S. Laws on the Internet\*](#)
- [THOMAS](#): many links to legislative history documents (bill texts, committee reports, Congressional Record Debates) in bill reports (coverage varies by date)
- [U.S. Department of Commerce Law Library](#)

# Sources of compiled Legislative Histories Database

The screenshot shows the HEINONLINE website interface. At the top left is the HEINONLINE logo. A navigation bar includes links for Resources, Search, Title Lookup, and MyHein. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: Libraries >> U.S. Federal Legislative History Library >> Legislative History Library - View by Congress >>. The main content area is titled "U.S. Federal Legislative History Library" and "Legislative History Library - View by Congress". A sub-header reads "Browse by: Congress | List of Public Laws". The main body of the page is a list of Congresses, each with a horizontal line below it, indicating a link to that Congress's page. The list starts with the 1st Congress (1789-91) and ends with the 64th Congress (1915-17). On the left side, there are three vertical menus: "Collection Resources" with links to Collection Home, Subscribed Libraries, and About the Sources of Compiled Legislative History Database; "Help & Training" with links to General Help (Wiki), HeinOnline Blog, HeinOnline's YouTube Channel, and Live Chat; and "External Links" with links to Important Legislative History Links and Legislative History Research: A Basic Guide (Julia Taylor). At the top right, there are links for Printer Friendly, Select Library, Help, Feedback, and Log Out. At the bottom right, there is a Windows taskbar showing the Internet Explorer browser and a 100% zoom level.

HEINONLINE

Resources Search Title Lookup MyHein

Libraries >> U.S. Federal Legislative History Library >> Legislative History Library - View by Congress >>

Collection Resources

- Collection Home
- Subscribed Libraries
- About the Sources of Compiled Legislative History Database

Help & Training

- General Help (Wiki)
- HeinOnline Blog
- HeinOnline's YouTube Channel
- Live Chat

External Links

- Important Legislative History Links
- Legislative History Research: A Basic Guide (Julia Taylor)

U.S. Federal Legislative History Library

Legislative History Library - View by Congress

Browse by: Congress | List of Public Laws

- 1st Congress (1789-91)
- 27th Congress (1840-41)
- 37th Congress (1861-63)
- 38th Congress (1863-65)
- 39th Congress (1865-67)
- 40th Congress (1867-69)
- 41st Congress (1869-71)
- 42nd Congress (1871-73)
- 43rd Congress (1873-75)
- 46th Congress (1877-79)
- 47th Congress (1881-83)
- 49th Congress (1885-87)
- 50th Congress (1887-89)
- 51st Congress (1889-91)
- 53rd Congress (1893-95)
- 56th Congress (1897-99)
- 57th Congress (1901-03)
- 59th Congress (1905-07)
- 60th Congress (1907-09)
- 61st Congress (1909-11)
- 62nd Congress (1911-13)
- 63rd Congress (1913-15)
- 64th Congress (1915-17)

Internet 100%

# U.S. Department of Commerce Law Library Legislative Histories



The screenshot displays the website for the U.S. Department of Commerce Law Library. The header features a dark blue bar with the text "COMMERCE DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY" and a circular seal on the right. Below the header, there are navigation links for "Home" and "Advanced Search". The main content area is titled "Hierarchy" and lists various digital collections under the heading "Legislative Histories". Each collection is represented by a small icon and a text label.

Home    Advanced Search

Hierarchy

Digital Collections

Legislative Histories

- P.L. 57-87, Department of Commerce and Labor
  - P.L. 63-16, Tariff Act of October 3, 1913
  - P.L. 67-10, Antidumping Act of 1921
  - P.L. 71-361, Tariff Act of 1930
  - P.L. 79-404, Administrative Procedures Act
  - P.L. 81-11, Paper Control Act of 1948
  - P.L. 82-593, To Revise & Codify Patent Laws
  - P.L. 89-63, Export Administration Act of 1965
  - P.L. 92-412, Export Administration Act of 1972
  - P.L. 92-532, An act to regulate the transportation of dumping ...
  - P.L. 92-583, Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
  - P.L. 93-500, Export Amendment Act of 1974
  - P.L. 93-618, Trade Act of 1974
  - P.L. 94-376, Coastal Zone Management Act Amendments of 1976
  - P.L. 94-485, Government in the Sunshine Act
  - P.L. 94-533, Copyright Law Revision of 1979
  - P.L. 95-32, Export Administration Amendments of 1977
  - P.L. 95-223, Trading With the Enemy Act
  - P.L. 96-39, Trade Agreement Act of 1979
  - P.L. 96-72, Export Administration Act of 1979
  - P.L. 96-417, Customs Court Act of 1980
  - P.L. 97-280, Export Trading Company Act of 1982
  - P.L. 98-573, Trade & Tariff Act of 1984
  - P.L. 99-64, Export Administration Act of 1985
  - P.L. 99-513, R.M.S. Titanic Maritime Memorial Act
  - P.L. 100-418, Omnibus Trade & Competitiveness Act of 1988
  - Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1979
  - P.L. 110-49, Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007

Error on page.    Internet    75%

# US Code Congressional & Administrative News (USSCAN)

- Published by West since 1941
- Access through Westlaw (database: [LH](#))
- *Does not reproduce U.S. Code or contain all congressional/administrative news documents*
- Note USCA notes that reference USSCAN legislative histories but they can be misleading/overly brief
- ***Good Starting Point, but not inclusive***

## **Contains:**

- U.S. public Laws,
- Presidential Documents,
  - **Presidential Signing Statements, 1986—**
  - **Executive Orders**
  - **Presidential Proclamations**
- Selected committee reports, with references to companion committee reports
- Dates of consideration on house and senate floors, 1964—
- Legislative History Tables, 1964— and indices to Subjects Covered

# Overview of The Federal Legislative Process

# Step One: Introduction of a Bill

- A bill is introduced by a member of the Senate or House of Representatives
- A bill may also be introduced by a member of the Presidential Administration who may ask a congressional member to introduce the bill
- The bill is numbered sequentially and referred to committee(s)
- GPO may print the bill (including an introductory statement and sometimes the text) in the Congressional Record. Always printed as a “slip” bill.

# Step Two: Committee Action on Bill

## Hearings

- There might be subcommittee hearings and a markup of the bill, related bills or its subject matter
- Hearings are usually not officially reported for months although prepared statements and unofficial transcripts may be available on committee websites
- Hearings are noted in the *Daily Digest*, but not the *Congressional Record*

## Markups

- A markup is where a committee/subcommittee/conference committee meet to change/iron out differences in the
- After markup, the committee orders the bill to be reported as amended; although it is not *officially* reported
- The committee report will have an explanation and summary



# Step Three: The Bill is brought up by chamber leadership for floor action

**The House or Senate considers, debates, amends and passes the bill**

- If legislation is controversial, the House Rules Committee may submit a resolution with specific rules for bill consideration which must be debated and adopted first
- The Senate will allow unlimited amendments and debate unless the senate:
  - Votes to table the amendment;
  - Agrees to limit debate by unanimous consent; or
  - Agrees to close debate with at least 60% of members invoking cloture

## Step Four: The Bill/Act is referred to the other chamber of Congress

- The Bill will be printed as referred by GPO
- A similar process will occur in the other body (committee and floor consideration) – Engrossed Bill.
- The other chamber may report and pass its own bill
- The other chamber may also pass the referred bill deleting all after enacting clause and inserting the language of their own bill
- Usually they just pass the other chamber's bill or make a few amendments before sending it back

## Step Five: Conferees deliberate & come to an agreement

- If both chambers cannot agree, a conference is requested, accepted and conferees appointed from both chambers
- The committee on the conference will produce a conference report which is a compromise text accompanied by a joint explanatory statement
- A conference report is submitted to both chambers and will be published as a House Report and sometimes also as a Senate document or report
- The Conference Report is debated and agreed to by both chambers

# Step Six: Ratification/Veto

- Enrolled version of the bill (Act) is prepared, signed & Sent to the President
- The enrolled version is not printed but will be available electronically
- The President has 10 business days to sign, veto, or pocket veto the bill
- If the President signs, he may prepare a signing statement (Post Legislative History?)
- The Law becomes effective upon the President's signature unless specified otherwise
- The Office of the Federal Register will assign a public law number and statute pages
- Office of Law Revision Counsel codifies the statute

# Other Information about the Legislative Process

- The legislative process on an issue may continue over several Congresses
- A failed bill may be reintroduced in the next Congress
- You may need to track multiple bills over several Congresses

DIY

Compiling Legislative Histories

# Documents Included in Legislative Histories

- **Presidential Documents**
  - **Such as Proclamations and Executive Orders/Signing Statements \*\***
- **Committee reports**
  - **Most important documents of a legislative History**
  - **Most reliable and persuasive indication of legislative intent**
  - **Contains latest version of bill (reported bill)**
  - **Contains section-by-section bill analysis**
- **Floor debate in the *Congressional Record***
  - **Statements by key players most persuasive**
  - **This is not a verbatim transcript of Congressional debates because legislators amend and revise their statements**

# Documents included in Legislative Histories

- **Committee hearings**
  - Testimony by notable players
  - Hearings about proposed legislation are typically the most useful because they often provide information about the purpose or expected effect of legislation
  - Not all legislation has hearings
- **Bills and Amendments**
  - Evolution of different bill versions may indicate legislative intent, by inference
- **Committee prints**
  - Background research prepared for committee
  - May include valuable statistical analyses or historical research
  - May be annual or special reports to Congress, special studies or Senate treaty documents



# Where to find Documents

Legislative Activity	Where to find Records
<b>Step One: Bill Introduced</b>	<a href="#">Congressional Record</a> <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a> <a href="#">CIS Index</a> CCH Congress. Index <a href="#">Congressional Bills &amp; Resolutions, 1823-1873</a> <a href="#">THOMAS</a>
<b>Step Two: Hearings by Committee</b>	<a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a> <a href="#">CIS Index</a> CCH Congress. Index <a href="#">THOMAS</a>
<b>Step Three: Committee Recommends Passage</b>	<a href="#">Congressional Record</a> <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a> <a href="#">CIS Index</a> CCH Congress. Index <a href="#">THOMAS</a> <a href="#">Calendar of House/History of Legislation</a>
<b>Step Four: Debates in Chambers</b>	<a href="#">Congressional Record</a> <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a>
<b>Step Five: Chamber Votes</b>	<a href="#">Congressional Record</a> <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a> <a href="#">CIS Index</a> <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a> <a href="#">CQ Almanac</a> House/Senate Journal (Available from <a href="#">LOC</a> and <a href="#">GPO Access</a> ) <a href="#">THOMAS</a>

<p><b>Step Six: Bill Sent to Conference (if necessary)</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Congressional Record</a>  <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a>  <a href="#">CIS Index</a>  <a href="#">USCCAN</a>  <a href="#">THOMAS</a></p>
<p><b>Step Seven: Presidential Statements</b></p>	<p><a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a>  <a href="#">CIS Index</a>  <a href="#">Public Papers of the President</a>  <a href="#">Compilation of Presidential Documents</a> (1993-)  <a href="#">USCCAN</a></p>
<p><b>Step Eight: Law</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Congressional Record</a>  <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a>  <a href="#">CQ Almanac</a>  <a href="#">CIS Index</a>  <a href="#">Calendar of House/History of Legis.</a>  <a href="#">Statutes at Large</a>  <a href="#">U.S. Code</a>  <a href="#">USCCAN</a></p>
<p><b>Step Nine: Veto</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Congressional Record</a>  <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a>  <a href="#">CQ Almanac</a>  <a href="#">CIS Index</a>  <a href="#">Calendar of House/History of Legis.</a>  <a href="#">Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States</a>  (FEDSys)  <a href="#">Compilation of Presidential Documents</a> (1993-)</p>
<p><b>Step Ten: Overriding Veto</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Congressional Record (Daily)</a>  <a href="#">CQ Weekly Reports</a>  <a href="#">CQ Almanac</a>  <a href="#">CIS Index</a>  House/Senate Journal (Available from <a href="#">LOC</a> and <a href="#">GPO Access</a>)  <a href="#">THOMAS</a></p>

# Paper Compilations

**Compiling Federal Legislative Histories**

# Arrangement of Documents

- Chronological/reverse-chronological order
- Detailed Table of Contents
- Some might be short while others could be many volumes
- Additional material to consider: unpublished bill drafts, committee markup amendments & descriptions, press releases, draft conference reports, conferee transcripts, news articles, correspondence, and reports from executive agencies or CBO, GAO, OMB and CRS

# CIS Legislative Histories Index Volume

- Basis for Compiling Own Legislative History
- 1970-1983: back of annual abstract has selected legislative history references
- 1984—: separate volumes with:
  - detailed indexes across congresses with law summaries,
  - committee report abstracts,
  - references to related bills & texts,
  - dates of floor consideration,
  - abstracts of committee consideration,
  - abstracts of committee hearings,
  - Prints, and
  - other material
- CIS Legislative History on LexisNexis: CISLH or LexisNexis Congressional

# Obtaining Legislative Documents

- Follow House and Senate Activity & Websites
- Track Bills
- Network/all sides
- GPO Access Documents starting with 104<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Federal Depositories (Pence Law Library, UMD is regional depository) and the Law Library of Congress/House and Senate Libraries

# Electronic Compilations

**Compiling Federal Legislative Histories**

# THOMAS

- Should be the first starting point in your research
- Contains:
  - Bill Summary and Tracking System 1973—
  - Bill Texts, 1989—
  - *Congressional Record*, 1994—
  - Committee Publications, 1995—



# FedSys

- **Includes:**
  - *Congressional Record Index,*
  - *History of Bills, 1983—*
  - *History of Bills with page and date cites and bill texts , 1993—*
  - *Congressional Record, 1994—*
  - *Committee Reports*
  - *House and Senate Documents, 1996—*
  - *Select Committee Prints, 1997—*
  - *Many congressional committee hearings from recent congresses*

# LexisNexis

- Boolean operators and allow search across multiple Congresses at once or subdivide individual Congresses based on Session, Chamber, Digest or other characteristics
- Congressional Record, 1985— (RECORD)
  - BLTRCK, 1989—
  - BLTEXT, 1989—
  - CIS Index/Abstract Service: CISINX, 1970—
  - Committee Reports: CMTRPT, 1990—
  - Selected Committee Prints: CMTPRN, 1995—
  - Federal News : FEDNEW, 1988—

# Westlaw

**Advantages: Boolean Operators, Field Searching and the ability to search across congresses**

- **Committee Reports that relate to public laws, 1948-1989 (USCCAN)**
- **Committee Reports, 1990—**
- **Congressional Record (CR), 1985—**
- **State Net's Federal Bill Tracking & Text Service: (BILLTRK-OLD, CONG-BILLTXT) from 1991—**
- **Selected Committee Hearing Transcripts & Prepared Testimony: (USPOLTRANS), 1994—; (USTESTIMONY), 1993—; (CONGTMY), July 1995—**
- **Public Laws with links to selected committee reports and other LH Documents, 1974—**

# Other Databases

- **Congressional Quarterly:** <http://www.cq.com>
  - News service; committee schedules; committee markup summaries with extensive archives back to 1989
  - Bill tracking, bill texts, committee reports & congressional Record files
  - Links to remarks on legislation not noted by other services
  - *CQ Weekly Report; CQ Annual Almanac & Other News Services*
- **National Journal Group**
- **GalleryWatch.com** –
  - Bill tracking, bill texts, committee reports, the Congressional Record, and committee schedules
  - Also features a mechanism to compare various versions of bills
- **Federal News Service (FNS): Unofficial Transcripts**
- **CQ Transcripts: On Request**
- **C-SpanArchives.org:** audio/video recordings
- **CapitolPulse.com:** audio/video recordings

# U.S. Federal Legislative History Title Collection

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Resources Search Title Lookup MyHein

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HeinOnline Blog  
HeinOnline's YouTube Channel  
Live Chat

**External Links**  
Important Legislative History Links  
Legislative History Research: A Basic Guide (Julia Taylor)

**U.S. Federal Legislative History Library**

**Browse Options**  
U.S. Federal Legislative History Title Collection Sources of Compiled Legislative History Database Legislative Reference Checklist

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W | All

Browse by: Publication Title | Public Law No. | Popular Name

**A**

- Administrative Procedure Act  
1 P. L. 79-404  
1 v. (1944)
- Administrative Procedure Act  
1 P. L. 79-404  
3 v. Covington & Burling, 1946
- Administrative Procedure Act Public Information Section  
1 P. L. 89-487  
2 v. Covington & Burling, 1966
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1978  
1 P. L. 95-256  
Covington & Burling  
3 v.
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967  
1 P. L. 90-202  
Covington & Burling  
2 v.
- Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act  
1 P. L. 92-203  
5 v. Covington & Burling, 1971
- Allen Property Custodian. A Legislative Chronological History and Bibliography of the Trading with the Enemy Act, 50 U.S. Code App. 1-40, and the Operations of the Office of Alien Property Custodian, 1917-1952  
Committee on the Judiciary  
1 v. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1953
- Amendments to the Federal Kidnaping Statute. Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Crime of Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives. Ninety-Third Congress. Second Session on H.R. 4191 and H.R. 8722. Amendments to the Federal Kidnaping Statute. February 27 & April 10, 1974  
Committee on Judiciary  
1 v. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974
- Amendments to the Federal Tort Claims Act. S. 2117. Joint Hearing before the Subcommittee on Citizens and Shareholders Rights and Remedies and the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Ninety-Fifth Congress, Second Session on Amendments to the Federal Tort Claims Act. S. 2117  
Committee on the Judiciary  
2 v. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978
- Analysis of Provisions Contained in the Line Item Veto Act (Public Law 104-130) Relating to Limited Tax Benefits  
1 P. L. 104-130  
Joint Committee on Taxation

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- -- House Hearing --  
Administrative Procedure - Hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives House Judiciary

Citations on Page: Off · Text · Citation · Save/Bookmark

1 Pat McCarran, Administrative Procedure Act, Legislative History, 79th Congress i (1944-1946)  
Title Page

79th Congress } SENATE { Document No. 240  
2nd Session }

# ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

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## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

### 79TH CONGRESS

### 1944-46




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*Administrative Procedure Act*
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*Senate Judiciary Committee Print, June 1945*
      - Page 11
    - House Hearing --  
*Administrative Procedure - Hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives*  
*House Judiciary*

1 Pat McCarran, Administrative Procedure Act, Legislative History, 79th Congress 45 (1944-1946)  
Administrative Procedure - Hearings before the Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE  
HEARINGS  
BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SEVENTY-NINTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION  
ON THE SUBJECT OF  
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE  
AND ON THE FOLLOWING BILLS  
H. R. 184, H. R. 239, H. R. 1117, H. R. 1203  
H. R. 1206, and H. R. 2602

# LexisNexis Congressional (now Proquest Congressional)

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## Congressional

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2. Search on

Bill Number:     
e.g. 107 H.R. 1727

Public Law Number:     
e.g. 107 PL 15

Statute at Large\*:  Stat   
e.g. 98 Stat 1331

Search within [Select all](#) | [Clear all](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Prints & Misc. Publications (1830-present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House & Senate Documents* (1817-Present)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congressional Record & Predecessors(1789-1999)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House & Senate Reports* (1817-Present)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRS Reports (1916-present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serial Set (1789-Present)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hearings* (1824-Present)	

\*Statutes at Large searches may retrieve limited results depending on your institution's subscriptions.

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# How to Compile a Federal Legislative History

**Compiling Federal Legislative Histories**

# Finding a Public Law Number

- Google
- If you know the USC code section, consult the History Notes following the text of an act in the *US Code Annotated*, or the *US Code Service*
- If you know the subject look in the indexes in the *US Code Annotated* or *US Code Service*
- If you know the name of the act look in *Shepard's Acts and Cases by Popular Name* volumes or the Popular Name Table in the USCA or USCS or online in Lexis or Westlaw

# Finding the Bill Number

- If you know the public law number you can find the bill number in the margin of the act as published in the *Statutes at Large*
- To obtain bill numbers for early Congresses (1<sup>st</sup> – 57<sup>th</sup>) look in the *Legislative Reference Checklist* (available on Hein). Bills are not referenced in the Statutes at Large until after 1903.

# Finding the bill number

Public Law 107–147  
107th Congress

## An Act

To provide tax incentives for economic recovery.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002”.

(b) **REFERENCES TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

### TITLE I—BUSINESS PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Special depreciation allowance for certain property acquired after September 10, 2001, and before September 11, 2004.

Sec. 102. Carryback of certain net operating losses allowed for 5 years; temporary suspension of 90 percent AMT limit.

Mar. 9, 2002  
[H.R. 3090]

Job Creation and  
Worker  
Assistance Act of  
2002.  
Inter-  
governmental  
relations.  
26 USC 1 note.

# Finding Single Documents

**Compiling Documents**


# LexisNexis Congressional (now Proquest Congressional)

The screenshot shows the ProQuest Congressional website interface. At the top right, there are navigation links: Home | How Do I? | Site Map | Help. The ProQuest logo is on the left, followed by the word "Congressional" in orange. Below the logo is a "Congressional Search Forms" section with a list of links: Congressional Publications, Basic Search, Advanced Search, Search By Number (highlighted), Congressional Record Only, Legislative Histories, Bills & Laws, Members & Committees, Regulations, Daily Congressional Record & Rules, and Political News. A "Links" section contains a link to the Congressional Wiki. A "Search for Other Information" section contains a link to Statistical data. The main content area is titled "Congressional Publications" and has tabs for Basic Search, Advanced Search, Search By Number, and Congressional Record Only. The "Search By Number" tab is active. It contains a search form with the following elements: 1. Select task: "Find Congressional publications related to a t" with a "Search" button. 2. Search on: Three radio button options: "Bill Number:" with a dropdown set to "112" and "H.R." and a text input field (example: "107 H.R. 1727"); "Public Law Number:" with a dropdown set to "112" and "PL" and a text input field (example: "107 PL 15"); "Statute at Large:" with a text input field and "Stat" dropdown (example: "98 Stat 1331"). Search within: A "Select all" link and a "Clear all" link, followed by a grid of checkboxes for various document types: Committee Prints & Misc. Publications (1830-present), Congressional Record & Predecessors (1789-1999), CRS Reports (1916-present), Hearings\* (1824-Present), House & Senate Documents\* (1817-Present), House & Senate Reports\* (1817-Present), and Serial Set (1789-Present). A note at the bottom states: "\*Statutes at Large searches may retrieve limited results depending on your institution's subscriptions." with a "Clear Form" link. A "Help Toolbox" section at the bottom lists links: How to Use this Form, Practice Scenarios, About Bills, Resolutions, and Laws, About the Legislative Process, How to Build a Search String, How to Cite Electronic Publications, Content Coverage Chart, Congressional Session Dates, and Glossary. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done", "Internet", and "125%".

# THOMAS

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The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home



## THOMAS

In the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, legislative information from the Library of Congress

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- Senate
- U.S. Code

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### Legislation in Current Congress

#### Search Bill Summary & Status

Word/Phrase  Bill Number

- Try the Advanced Search
- More Search Options

#### Browse Bills by Sponsor

Select a Representative

Select a Senator

- More Browse Options

### More Legislative Information

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- The Supreme Court
- Declaration of Independence
- U.S. Constitution
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Most Recent THOMAS Posts:

- Legislative Status Steps 7 Pic of the Week
- The Curious History of the 2011 Debt Ceiling Legislation

### Current Activity


- House Floor Now (video)
- Senate Floor Now (video)
- Passed Congress, Sent to President
- Yesterday in Congress
- Congressional Record Latest Daily Digest
- Schedules, Calendars

### Weekly Top Five

- H.R. 4646 [111th]
- S. 365 [112th]
- H.R. 1540 [112th]
- H.R. 1473 [112th]
- H.R. 1351 [112th]

- View Top Ten

THOMASdotgov Twitter



THOMASdotgov RT @lawcongress: Researchers: our reading rooms will be open tomorrow as usual, but with no internet or wifi service due to our scheduled maintenance. 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation

### Tip of the Week

The [sharing toolbar](#) allows users to share a permanent link via social networking sites such as Twitter or Facebook. This toolbar can now also be found on the *Congressional Record*, Committee Reports, Nominations, and Treaties pages



# Committee Reports on THOMAS

The screenshot shows the THOMAS website interface. At the top, it says "The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS". Below that is a navigation bar with "The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Search Committee Reports".

The main heading is "Search Committee Reports 112th Congress (2011-2012)". A sub-heading explains: "Congress divides its work among over two hundred committees, each of which issues regular reports on its activities." There are links for "More about Committee Reports", "Print", "Subscribe", and "Share/Save".

On the left side, there is a navigation menu with links to THOMAS Home, About THOMAS, Bills, Resolutions, Congressional Record, Presidential Nominations, Treaties, Committee Reports, Government Resources, For Teachers, and Help. Below this is a section for "Related Resources at the Library" with links to Law Library of Congress, Global Legal Monitor, Global Legal Information Network, Century of Lawmaking, and Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention. At the bottom left, there is a "Find the Law Library on:" section with social media links for Facebook, Twitter (Law Library), Twitter (THOMAS), YouTube, and iTunes U.

The main content area has a "Select Congress:" dropdown menu with options 112, 111, 110, 109, 108, 107, 106, 105, and 104. Below this is a "Congress-to-Year Conversion" link and a "Help" link.

There is a section "Browse Committee Reports by:" with links for House, Senate, Conference, and Joint.

The "Search Committee Reports" section features a search input field with a "Word/Phrase" dropdown, "SEARCH" and "CLEAR" buttons, and radio buttons for "Exact Match only" and "Include Variants (plurals, etc.)".

Below the search options are sections for "Committees" and "Other". The "Committees" section is divided into "House" and "Senate". Under "House", there is a checked option for "All House Committees" and a dropdown menu showing Agriculture, Appropriations, Armed Services, and Budget. Under "Senate", there is a checked option for "All Senate Committees" and a dropdown menu showing Aging, Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Appropriations, and Armed Services. The "Other" section has a checked option for "All Other Committees" and a dropdown menu showing Conference, Joint Economic Committee, Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, and Joint Committee on Taxation.

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Data Available Online" section. The browser's address bar shows "Internet" and the page is zoomed to 100%.



# Sample Committee Report

111TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPT. 111-137  
*1st Session* } { Part 1

---

---

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009

—————  
JUNE 5, 2009.—Ordered to be printed  
—————

Mr. WAXMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY AND ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 2454]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2454) to create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.


# Tracking Pending Legislation

**Compiling documents**

# Bill Tracking on THOMAS

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#### Search Bill Summary & Status

Word/Phrase  Bill Number

hr 45

- Try the Advanced Search
- More Search Options

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- H.R. 1473 [112th]
- H.R. 1351 [112th]

- View Top Ten

### THOMASdotgov Twitter

[THOMASdotgov THOMAS.gov and @librarycongress websites; unavailable 10pm Fri 8/26 to 8am Mon 8/29 for maintenance. We apologize for the inconvenience. 2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite](#)

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# Bill Information on THOMAS

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

## Bill Summary & Status 112th Congress (2011 - 2012) H.R.45

Item 1 of 1

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H.R.45

**Latest Title:** Criminal Alien Accountability Act

**Sponsor:** [Rep Issa, Darrell E.](#) [CA-49] (introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

**Latest Major Action:** 1/24/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement.

<a href="#">All Information</a> (except text)	<a href="#">Text of Legislation</a>	<a href="#">CRS Summary</a>	Major Congressional Actions
<a href="#">Titles</a>	Cosponsors (None)	<a href="#">Committees</a>	<a href="#">All Congressional Actions</a>
Related Bills	Amendments	Related Committee Documents	All Congressional Actions with Amendments With links to <i>Congressional Record</i> pages, votes, reports
CBO Cost Estimates	<a href="#">Subjects</a>	<a href="#">Constitutional Authority Statement</a>	

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FEEDBACK

# Information about the Bill on THOMAS

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

## Bill Summary & Status 112th Congress (2011 - 2012) H.R.45 CRS Summary

Item 1 of 1

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### H.R.45

**Latest Title:** Criminal Alien Accountability Act

**Sponsor:** [Rep Issa, Darrell E.](#) [CA-49] (Introduced 1/5/2011) Cosponsors (None)

**Latest Major Action:** 1/24/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement.

### SUMMARY AS OF:

1/5/2011--Introduced.

Criminal Alien Accountability Act - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish minimum imprisonment terms for specified categories of aliens subject to criminal fines, imprisonment, or both, for reentry as removed aliens. (Such provision does not apply to aliens removed for security or terrorist grounds.)

Subjects an individual who knowingly aids or conspires to allow, procure, or permit any such alien to reenter the United States to criminal penalty, the same imprisonment term as applies to the alien so aided, or both.

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FEEDBACK

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## TRACKING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

This is GovTrack 1.5. We are still working toward more changes for GovTrack 2.0 coming later in the year.



### Members of Congress

Find your congressional district. Legislator statistics.

Do you know who represents you in Congress? [Find a representative or senator](#). We also compile [statistics](#) about Members of Congress:

Successful: [Sen. Hatch \[R-UT\]](#), 68 bills enacted since 1987

Absent: [Rep. Giffords \[D-AZ8\]](#), 23% votes missed since 2007

Unsuccessful: [Sen. Schumer \[D-NY\]](#), 89% of 760 bills died since 1987



### Bills & Resolutions

GovTrack has information on all bills going back to 1993 and follows the status of current pending legislation as it goes through the law-making process. Search bills and browse by subject area.



### Voting Records

Browse House and Senate roll call vote results. Here are the latest:

[On Passage - House - H.R. 3801 Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act - Under Suspension of the Rules](#)  
House Roll #11 - Jan 25, 2012 10:55 AM  
Passed 408-0, 25 not voting (2/3 required)

[On Passage - House - H.R. 1022 Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act - Under Suspension of the Rules](#)  
House Roll #10 - Jan 25, 2012 10:18 AM  
Passed 338-70, 25 not voting (2/3 required)

[On Motion to Instruct Conferees: H.R. 3630 Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011](#)  
House Roll #9 - Jan 24, 2012 4:56 PM  
Passed 397-16, 20 not voting



### Congressional Committees

Committee assignments and bills by committee.



### Community Q&A

Keep up with the latest legislative activity in Congress using email updates or RSS. Find out how to [set up your trackers](#).

### RECENT GOVTRACK UPDATES

Not much getting done in DC

*Mon, 19 Dec 2011 23:05:18*

Numbers confirm what we already pretty much know: Congress this year isn't getting much done. The number of bills enacted this year is lower than it has ever been in at least 30 years. If you think Congress should be passing fewer laws, then you got your wish this year. An analysis of GovTrack data shows [...]

Tune in to WAMU 88.5 at noon

*Tue, 13 Sep 2011 12:44:07*

18&#8217;ll be on the Kojo Nnamdi show at noon today, which is on WAMU 88.5 in the DC area, and I think you can also listen online.

Kill Bill: How many bills are there? How many are enacted?

*Fri, 05 Aug 2011 01:23:42*

So far this year we&#8217;ve had 4,288 bills introduced in the Congress. That puts our congressmen and senators on track for a banner year in terms of number of bills introduced, and probably for fewest bills enacted too. Here&#8217;s how the numbers break down so far: 20 bills have been enacted this year so far. 7 [...]

Check out the new colors

*Fri, 22 Jul 2011 12:56:04*

Numerical methods for determining leadership and ideology in Congress

*Mon, 27 Dec 2010 03:27:43*

Summer Citizen Reporter Contest

*Tue, 06 Jul 2010 16:35:58*

GovTrack On The Go (For Android Phones)

*Tue, 15 Jun 2010 14:58:06*

Who writes our law?

*Wed, 24 Mar 2010 13:25:13*

Winter Weather Updates

*Thu, 11 Feb 2010 03:02:35*

Cosponsors disappeared! (They're back now.)

*Fri, 08 Jan 2010 18:24:37*

# FedSys (Formerly GPO Access)

The screenshot displays the GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) website. The top navigation bar includes links for About GPO, Newsroom/Media, Congressional Relations, Inspector General, Careers, Contact, askGPO, and Help. The main header features the GPO logo and the text "U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE | Keeping America Informed". Below the header, there are navigation links for Home, Customers, Vendors, and Libraries. The left sidebar contains the "FDsys: GPO's Federal Digital System" section with links for "About FDsys", "Search Government Publications", and "Browse Government Publications". A "Related Resources" section below it includes a link to "Purchase a subscription to electronic copies of daily congressional bills." The main content area is titled "FDsys > Collection Results" and features a "CONGRESSIONAL BILLS" section. This section provides an overview of congressional bills and lists various types: House bills (H.R.), Senate bills (S.), House Joint Resolutions (H.J. Res.), Senate Joint Resolutions (S.J. Res.), House Concurrent Resolutions (H. Con. Res.), Senate Concurrent Resolutions (S. Con. Res.), House Simple Resolutions (H. Res.), and Senate Simple Resolutions (S. Res.). It also mentions that numerous different bill versions are available from GPO. A list of Congresses from 112th to 103rd is provided with expandable icons. The footer contains the address "732 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20401-0001", the phone number "202.512.1800", and links for Privacy, Important Links, Accessibility, Sitemap, and COOP. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Internet Explorer icon and a zoom level of 150%.

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FDsys > Collection Results

### CONGRESSIONAL BILLS

Congressional bills are legislative proposals from the House of Representatives and Senate within the United States Congress. There are six different types of bills.

House bills (H.R.) and Senate bills (S.) require the approval of both chambers (ie House and Senate) and the signature of the President to become law.

House Joint Resolutions (H.J. Res.) and Senate Joint Resolutions (S.J. Res.) require the approval of both chambers and the signature of the President. Joint resolutions generally are used for limited matters, such as a single appropriation for a specific purpose and to propose amendments to the Constitution.

House Concurrent Resolutions (H. Con. Res.) and Senate Concurrent Resolutions (S. Con. Res.) require the approval of both chambers but do not require the signature of the President and do not have the force of law. Concurrent resolutions generally are used to make or amend rules that apply to both chambers.

House Simple Resolutions (H. Res.) and Senate Simple Resolutions (S. Res.) address matters entirely within the prerogative of one chamber or the other. They do not require the approval of the other chamber or the signature of the President, and they do not have the force of law.

There are numerous different bill versions that track a bill through the legislative process from introduction through passage by both chambers (enrolled version). All final published bill versions are available from GPO. [About the Congressional Bills.](#)

- 112th Congress (2011 - 2012)
- 111th Congress (2009 - 2010)
- 110th Congress (2007 - 2008)
- 109th Congress (2005 - 2006)
- 108th Congress (2003 - 2004)
- 107th Congress (2001 - 2002)
- 106th Congress (1999 - 2000)
- 105th Congress (1997 - 1998)
- 104th Congress (1995 - 1996)
- 103rd Congress (1993 - 1994)

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# <http://www.Metavid.org>

**metavid**<sup>BETA</sup> Video archive of the US Congress

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advanced search

## Bills

This Page highlights Recent Bills, for all bills see [the bill query page](#)

Note the bill coverage is dependent on user tagging.

Bill Title	Date Introduced	Bill Sponsor	Bill Clips
<a href="#">S. 1646: A bill to keep Americans working by strengthening and expanding short-time compensation programs</a>	7 August 2009	<a href="#">Jack Reed</a>	
<a href="#">S. Res. 251: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of Afghanistan, with the</a>	7 August 2009	<a href="#">Kirsten Gillibrand</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1605: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the rules relating to fractional</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Charles Schumer</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1643: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for the conversion of heating</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Olympia Snowe</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1588: STOP Act</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Ron Wyden</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1606: A bill to require foreign manufacturers of products imported into the United States to establish</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Sheldon Whitehouse</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1611: A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Judd Gregg</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1644: A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to require a Public Health Advisory Committee on Trade to</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Debbie Stabenow</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1589: Biodiesel Tax Incentive Reform and Extension Act of 2009</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Maria Cantwell</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1612: A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the operation of employee stock</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Blanche Lincoln</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1620: Efficient Vehicle Leadership Act of 2009</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Jeff Bingaman</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1645: A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Arlen Specter</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1597: A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the licensing by the Secretary of</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Robert Menendez</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1619: A bill to establish the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, to establish the</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Christopher Dodd</a>	
<a href="#">S. Res. 248: A resolution designating the month of August 2009 as "Agent Orange Awareness Month"</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Susan Collins</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1640: A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of intensive lifestyle</a>	6 August 2009	<a href="#">Ron Wyden</a>	
<a href="#">S. 1602: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that excess oil</a>	6 August	<a href="#">Mark Udall</a>	



# Congressional Quarterly (CQ.com)

The screenshot shows the homepage of CQ.com. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Login, News, Bills, Committees, Members, Floor & Votes, and Laws & Regulations. Below this is the CQ.com logo and a banner for 'DIFFERENT CLOUDS FOR DIFFERENT CROWDS.' featuring a cloud icon with a keyhole. To the right of the banner is a Lockheed Martin advertisement with the text 'THIS IS HOW MISSION FOCUSED CLOUD COMPUTING SOLUTIONS' and 'LOCKHEED MARTIN'. Below the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for My Subscription, Alerts & Tools, Help, Live Chat, and an Offline status indicator. A search bar with a 'GO' button and 'Advanced Search' link is also present. The main content area starts with a 'Welcome to CQ.com' message, followed by instructions on how to set a starting page. To the right of this text is a red and blue advertisement for 'GPS for the political landscape.' from The Economist, offering a 72% discount on the newsstand price and a 'SUBSCRIBE TODAY' button. Below the main content is a 'Roll Call' advertisement for an iPhone app, sponsored by CTIA. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice for 2011 CQ Roll Call, the address '77 K Street N.E. | Washington, D.C. 20002-4681 | 202-650-6500', and a footer with links for Help, About CQ Roll Call, Privacy Policy, Masthead, Terms & Conditions, and Back to the Top. The browser's address bar at the very bottom shows 'Internet' and a 100% zoom level.

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OpenCongress Blog FEED

Congress Links - SOTU Edition  
by David Moore January 24, 2012

The U.S. House returns to gridlocked action in D.C. this week. The top story, of course, is (yesterday's) State of the Union address. Ezra Klein's must-read-every-day Wonkblog on WaPo reminds us, "Last year, for instance, Obama exhorted Americans to win the future by investing in scientific research, clean energy and infrastructure. But as Glenn Kessler details, Obama's proposals languished in the divided Congress. Instead, Congress spent much of its time almost letting the government shut down, almost defaulting on the national debt, and almost letting the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance expire." More Congress Links to come today (Wed.).



Read Full Article

More Recent Blog Posts

SOPA/PIPA Dead ...For Now.	Jan 20
PIPA Vote Delayed, Notable Win, Now Kill It Off	Jan 18
New York Metro Area - Emergency #PIPA Protest Tomorrow	Jan 17
Six GOP Co-Sponsors of PIPA Ask Reid to Cancel Vote	Jan 13
Help Us Whip #PIPA	Jan 13
Jan. 24th: Our Best Chance to Kill SOPA	Jan 12

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Today in Congress January 25, 2012

- House: In Session
- Senate: Returns Jan. 26th

Bills in the News More Bills in the News

S.968 - PIPA	Introduced Jan 23, 2012 45 articles
S.1774 - A bill to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Co...	Introduced Nov 01, 2011 40 articles
H.R.3261 - Stop Online Piracy Act	Introduced Dec 16, 2011 31 articles
S.99 - American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2011	Senate Passed Dec 02, 2011 30 articles
S.44 - Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Ac...	

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## Congress/Legislative Resources

**FEATURED RESOURCES**

- U.S. House of Representatives
- U.S. Senate
- Congressional Information Center
- Congressional Directory
- Executive Cabinet and Agency Search
- Current Issues and Legislation
- Today's House Schedule
- Today's Senate Schedule
- Today's Committee Meetings Schedule
- House Calendar
- Senate Executive Calendar
- Capitol Spotlight
- Capitol Hearings
- Congressional Glossary

**KEY VOTES**

- Library of Congress Thomas Server
- Search by Vote Subject/Keyword
- Search by Member
- Search by Date
- Search by Vote Number
- Search by Zip Code

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- House Roll Calls
- Senate Roll Calls
- The Legislative Process: An Overview
- Architect of the Capitol
- Campaign Finance Database
- Capitol Questions
- Center for Legislative Archives
- Congress.org
- Congressional Black Caucus
- Congressional Budget Office
- Congressional Executive Comm. on China
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus
- Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte.
- Democratic Leadership Council
- Democratic National Committee (DNC)
- Democratic Senatorial Campaign Cmte.
- USA.gov
- Federal Election Commission

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (CONT.)**

- General Accounting Office
- Government Printing Office
- GovTrack
- House Republican Conference
- House Democratic Caucus
- House Republican Policy Committee
- Library of Congress
- National Republican Congressional Cmte.
- Open Congress
- National Republican Senatorial Cmte.
- Republican National Committee (RNC)
- Senate Republican Conference
- Senate Democratic Policy Committee
- Senate Republican Policy Committee

**CONTACTING MEMBERS**

- Tips on Communicating with Officials
- Congressional Offices Phone Numbers
- Key Capitol Hill Phone Numbers
- Local and National Media Guide

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# Locating Relevant Legislative Documents with Citations

# Locating Committee Reports

- **LexisNexis Congressional (now Proquest Congressional)**: Full text of Committee Reports, 1989—.
- **LexisNexis**: The Committee Reports file (CMTRPT) contains full-text of House and Senate committee reports from 1990 to present.
- **Westlaw**: From 1948 through 1989, the LH database contains only the Congressional Committee Reports reprinted in the *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN)*. From 1990 to date, this database contains all congressional committee reports, including reports on bills that did not become law.
- **THOMAS**: includes committee reports from the 104th Congress (1995) to present.
- The **Library of Congress's American Memory Project** has reports from 1789 to 1838 online as part of the *American State Papers*, and from 1833 to 1917 has selected reports online as part of the *U.S. Serial Set*.
- **GPO Access - FDsys**: includes committee reports from the 104th Congress (1995) to present.
- **FDsys** has access through its new digital document platform to reports from the 104th Congress (1995) to present.
- **USCCAN (Westlaw USCCAN)**

# Locating Committee Prints

- **LexisNexis Congressional (now Proquest Congressional)**: This database indexes committee prints from the 21st Congress (1830) to the most recent Congress, and provides full-text of committee prints from the 103rd Congress (1993) to the most recent Congress. The database includes abstracts and indexing for House & Senate Documents from 1970 to current, and indexing for House & Senate Documents from 1789 to 1969.
- **LexisNexis:**
  - **Committee Prints file (CMTPRN)** provides the full-text of selected committee prints from the 104th Congress (1995) to present.
  - **The House & Senate Documents file (LEGIS:HSDOCS)** has the full text of documents from the 104th Congress (1995) to current.
- **GPO Access - FDsys** - includes committee prints from the 105th Congress (1997) to present and House & Senate Documents from the 104th Congress (1995) to the present.
- **CIS microfiche set:** House Documents, Senate Documents, House, Senate, and Joint Conference Committee Prints are available on microfiche as part of this set

# Locating Bills & Amendments

- **LexisNexis Congressional (now Proquest Congressional)**: indexes bills from the 1st Congress to the most recent Congress, and provides full-text and status of bills from the 101st Congress (1989) to present.
- **THOMAS** includes the full-text of bills from the 101st Congress (1989) to the present.
- **GPO Access - FDsys** the full-text of bills from the 103rd Congress (1993) to the present.
- **LexisNexis** - Offers full-text of bills introduced in the House and Senate since the 101st Congress, and tracking of congressional bills for the same time period. From the main Lexis search page, select "Legislation & Politics," select the subcategory "US Congress," then select the subcategory "Full Text of Bills - Historical."
- **Westlaw** - Offers full-text of bills from the 104th Congress to date in the following databases: **CONG-BILLTXT** (for the 110th Congress), **CONG-BILLTXT109**, **CONG-BILLTXT108**, **CONG-BILLTXT107**, **CONG-BILLTXT106**, **CONG-BILLTXT105**, and **CONG-BILLTXT104**.
  - **Bill Tracking for the current session is available in the database US-BILLTRK and for older bills (from 1991) in BILLTRK-OLD. (Note: BILLTRK-OLD combines federal bills with state bills).**
- The **Library of Congress** hosts databases of **House Bills & Resolutions** (from the 6th to the 42nd Congress (1799 to 1872)), **Senate Bills & Resolutions** (from the 16th to 42nd Congress (1819 to 1872)), and **Senate Joint Resolutions** (from the 18th to the 42nd Congress (1823-1872)).
- **FDSys** has access through its new digital document platform to bills from the 103th Congress (1993) to present.

# Locating Committee Hearings on Westlaw

- [USTESTIMONY](#) contains selected transcripts of oral or written statements from US congressional committee hearings from 1993 - 1995; full coverage begins in 1996.
- [USPOLTRANS](#) contains transcripts of testimony from selected US congressional committee hearings since 1994.
- [CONGTMY](#) contains congressional testimony, transcripts, and official documents from the committees of the Congress from 1995 to current, as provided by NewsRoom.



# LexisNexis Resources for Locating Committee Hearings

- **LexisNexis Congressional (now Proquest Congressional)**: This subscription Internet database includes the full-text for only a limited number of recent hearings.
- LexisNexis Databases:
  - Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony ([CNGTST](#)): includes written statements of witnesses testifying before congressional committees since 1993.
  - Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Hearings Summaries ([LEGIS;HEARNG](#)): contains recent transcripts of congressional hearings, individual written testimony of witnesses and detailed reports of select committee hearings.
  - FDCH Political Transcripts ([POLTRN](#)): contains transcripts of congressional hearings since 1995.
  - Federal News Service ([FEDNEW](#)): includes a few congressional hearings since 1988 that relate to major news stories.
  - National Narrowcast Network Transcripts ([NNNTRN](#)): provides transcripts of select congressional hearings from October 1993 through July 2000.

# Other Resources for Locating Hearings

- **GPO Access - FDsys**: Contains a limited number of hearings from the 105th Congress (1997) through the most recent Congress are available at GPO Access.
- **House Committee Hearings** - Selected recent house hearings are organized by committee and available at this site and individual committee websites.
- **FDsys** has access through its new digital document platform to hearings from the 105th Congress (1997) to present.

# Finding the Congressional Record

- [LexisNexis Congressional \(now Proquest Congressional\)](#): Includes the *Congressional Record* and its predecessor from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress (1789) to the most recent.
- LexisNexis: The Congressional Record file ([RECORD](#)) contains the *Congressional Record* from the 99th Congress (1985) to the most recent.
- Westlaw: The *Congressional Record* is available in the [CR](#) database from the 99th Congress (1985) to the most recent.
- [THOMAS](#): includes the *Congressional Record* from the 101st Congress (1989) to the most recent.
- [GPO Access - FDsys](#) : includes the *Congressional Record* from the 104th Congress (1995) to present.
- [FDsys](#): has access through its new digital document platform to the *Congressional Record* from 1994 to present.
- **HeinOnline**: Contains the [Congressional Record](#) and its predecessors, 1789-2005 and [Congressional Record Daily](#) editions to date (also has [Congressional Record Daily to Bound Volume Locator](#))

# Useful Links

- [House of Representatives](#)
- [Senate](#)
- [THOMAS: Legislative Information on the Internet](#)
- [GPO Access - FDsys](#)
- [Records of Congress at the National Archives](#)
- [Project Vote Smart](#)
- [C-SPAN Online: Congressional Glossary](#)
- [C-SPAN Online: Congressional Vote Search](#)
- [C-SPAN Online: Congressional Directory](#)
- [C-SPAN Online: Congress Resources](#)
- [Congressional Record Index \(Daily\)](#)
- [History of Bills](#)

# Upcoming Legislative Activity

- House Whip Page @ <http://majoritywhip.house.gov/>
- View current activity on floor at <http://clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.aspx>
- Senate  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/g\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/legislative\\_home.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/g_three_sections_with_teasers/legislative_home.htm) and  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/calendars.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/calendars.htm)