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Legislative History Sources

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Legislative History Resources

When compiling a legislative history, follow the categories below, in the order given. Important: Before you begin, find the bill number(s) and the public law number (if the bill became law) for the legislation you are researching.

Complete Legislative Histories

1. [HeinOnline](#): U.S. Federal Legislative History Library > Title Collection (PDF)
2. [WCL Library online catalog](#) for complete histories in collection (paper)
 - A. Keyword search: "legislative history" and [key term]
3. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > Legislative Histories > select act
 - A. Search query: legislative history (if summary page not retrieved)
4. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > Arnold & Porter Collection > select act
 - A. Search query: "legislative history" (must include quotation marks)
5. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > Legislative History > US GAO Federal Legislative Histories (PDF)

Legislative History Summaries with Links to Documents

1. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Legislative Histories (sidebar) > Get a Document tab > Legislative Histories (drop-down menu) (non-linked documents on microfiche, 1970-) (some documents PDF)
2. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > Legislative Histories > US - CIS Legislative Histories (non-linked documents on microfiche, 1970-)
 - A. Search query: pl(106-25) or enacted-bill(h.r. 800)
3. [Thomas](#): Public Laws (center) > Select Congress & public law range > scroll down to PL number > click on bill number (1973-) (some documents PDF)
4. [HeinOnline](#): U.S. Federal Legislative History Library > Sources of Compiled Legislative History Database (cites to compilations in articles, treatises, etc.)

Bill Tracking Summaries (Chronological)

1. [Thomas](#): Bills, Resolutions (sidebar) > Search Bill Summary, Status (1973-)
2. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > Legislative Impact > Get a Document (top) (2005-) (includes tracking tool)
3. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Legislative Histories (sidebar) > Get a Document tab > Bill Tracking (drop-down menu) (1989-)
4. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > (i) Bill Tracking Report-Current Congress, or (ii) Bill Tracking - Historical (1989-)
5. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > Bill Tracking > Bill Tracking databases (1991-)
6. [GovTrack.us](#): Research Congress > Bills & Resolutions (1993-) (includes tracking tool)
7. [OpenCongress](#): Bills (2005-) (includes tracking tool)

Individual Documents (Electronic Full Text)

1. Committee reports (cite to official report published by the Government Printing Office (GPO); should include parallel citation to USCCAN version of report, if included there (on Westlaw); BB 13.4)

- A. [Thomas](#): Committee Reports (sidebar) (1995-) (PDF)
- B. House and Senate committee websites via [Thomas](#) (selected) (1995-) (PDF)
- C. [GPO Access](#): Legislative Resources > View All > (i) Congressional Reports (1995-) (PDF) or (ii) Conference Reports (2005-) (PDF)
- D. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Congressional Publications (sidebar) > Search by Number tab > drop-down menu selection (1789-1969 (PDF coming soon)), (1970-1990 (PDF)), (1990- (text))
- E. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > Committee Reports (1990-)
- F. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > US Code Congressional & Administrative News (USCCAN) > Legislative History Reports (selected 1948-1989, all 1990-)

2. Floor debates (cite *Congressional Record*, Permanent Edition (bound) if published; cite temporary Daily Edition *only* if PE not yet published; BB 13.5)

- A. [HeinOnline](#): U.S. Congressional Documents > *Congressional Record* (Permanent Edition, 1873-, v.1-) (PDF) or *Congressional Record* (Daily Edition, 1994-) (PDF)
- B. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Congressional Record & Rules (sidebar) (Permanent Edition, 1873-, v. 1- (PDF)); (Daily Edition, 1985- (text))
- C. [GPO Access](#): Legislative Resources > View All > (i) *Congressional Record* Bound (Permanent Edition, 1999-, v. 145-) (PDF) or (ii) *Congressional Record* (Daily Edition, 1994-) (PDF) or (iii) *Congressional Record Index* (1983-)
- D. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > various *Congressional Record* files (Daily Edition, 1985-)
- E. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > Legislative History > *Congressional Record* (Daily Edition, 1985-)
- F. [Thomas](#): Congressional Record (sidebar) (Daily Edition, 1989-; PDF 1995-) (includes browsable index from 1995-)

3. Committee hearings (cite official hearings transcript published by the Government Printing Office (GPO); cite recent unofficial hearings transcripts from the Federal Documents Clearing House (FDCH) or the Federal News Service (FNS) *only* if official not yet published; BB 13.3)

- A. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Congressional Publications (sidebar) > Search by Number tab or Advanced Search tab (official 1824- (PDF), selective unofficial 1988- (text))
- B. House and Senate committee websites via [Thomas](#) (selective official PDF from GPO) (1995-)

- C. [GPO Access](#): Legislative Resources > View All > Congressional Hearings (selective official PDF from GPO) (1995-)
 - D. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > Committee Hearing Transcripts (selective unofficial) (1988-)
 - E. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > Legislative History > (i) US Congressional Testimony (unofficial) (1993-) or (ii) Congressional Testimony (unofficial) (11/2004-) or (iii) US Political Transcripts (unofficial) (1994-)
4. Bills and resolutions (all versions) (if enacted, cite as statute unless referring to its pre-enactment history; BB 13.2)
- A. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Legislative Histories (sidebar) > Get a Document tab > Bills or Legislative Histories (drop-down menu) (1989-)
 - B. [LexisNexis](#): Legislation & Politics > US Congress > (i) Congressional Full Text Bills-Current Congress or (ii) Full Text of Bills - Historical (1989-)
 - C. [Westlaw](#): US Federal Materials > Bill Tracking > Congressional Bills databases (1995-)
 - D. [Thomas](#): Bills, Resolutions (sidebar) > Search Bill Text (1989-) (PDF 1993-)
 - E. [GPO Access](#): Legislative Resources > Congressional Bills (1993-) (PDF)

News About Congressional Legislation

1. [LexisNexis Congressional](#): Political News (sidebar) (*Roll Call* (12/1989-), *The Hill* (1995-) and the *Washington Post* A section (national political coverage) (1977-))
2. [CQ Weekly](#): Advanced Search > Bill Number and Date Range dialog boxes (1983-)
3. [LexisNexis](#): News & Business tab > News > By Industry & Topic > Government & Politics > Legislative News (*Politico.com* (2007-), *Roll Call* (12/1989-), *The Hill* (1995-), *National Journal's CongressDaily* (6/1991-), *CongressNow* (7/2007-) and Legislative News Stories (legislative news from newspapers, wires, transcripts and magazines (dates vary))
4. [Westlaw](#): U.S. Federal Materials > Current Awareness & Political News > Current Awareness: Washington Developments (*Congress Daily* (1/2002-))