Researching and Compiling Federal Legislative History

Adeen Postar
Advanced Legal Research Techniques
929-001
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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
Finding Compiled Federal Legislative Histories
Library Holdings

- Nancy Johnson, *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories*, William Hein & Co., 2000—. Biennial. KF42.2 1979 (Also available on HeinOnline)
- 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—. (LEGIS;CISLH)

- **LexisNexis Congressional**
  - Offers Legislative histories for all federal acts since the 91st Congress, with links to full text legislative documents

- **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 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
U.S. Department of Commerce Law Library
Legislative Histories
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Hearings</strong></th>
<th><strong>Markups</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There might be subcommittee hearings and a markup of the bill, related bills or its subject matter.</td>
<td>A markup is where a committee/subcommittee/conference committee meet to change/iron out differences in the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearings are usually not officially reported for months although prepared statements and unofficial transcripts may be available on committee websites.</td>
<td>After markup, the committee orders the bill to be reported as amended; although it is not officially reported.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearings are noted in the <em>Daily Digest</em>, but not the <em>Congressional Record</em>.</td>
<td>The committee report will have an explanation and summary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
- 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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Activity</th>
<th>Where to find Records</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Step One: Bill Introduced</strong></td>
<td><strong>Congressional Record</strong>&lt;br&gt;CQ Weekly Reports&lt;br&gt;CIS Index&lt;br&gt;CCH Congress. Index&lt;br&gt;<em>Congressional Bills &amp; Resolutions, 1823-1873</em> (American Memory)&lt;br&gt;THOMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step Two: Hearings by Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Congressional Record</strong>&lt;br&gt;CQ Weekly Reports&lt;br&gt;CIS Index&lt;br&gt;CCH Congress. Index&lt;br&gt;THOMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step Three: Committee Recommends Passage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Congressional Record</strong>&lt;br&gt;CQ Weekly Reports&lt;br&gt;CIS Index&lt;br&gt;CCH Congress. Index&lt;br&gt;THOMAS&lt;br&gt;Calendar of House/History of Legislation on THOMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step Four: Debates in Chambers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Congressional Record</strong>&lt;br&gt;CQ Weekly Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Step Five: Chamber Votes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Congressional Record</strong>&lt;br&gt;CQ Weekly Reports&lt;br&gt;CIS Index&lt;br&gt;CQ Weekly Reports&lt;br&gt;CQ Almanac&lt;br&gt;House/Senate Journal (Available from LOC and GPO Access)&lt;br&gt;THOMAS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Step Six: Bill Sent to Conference (if necessary) | Congressionnal Record  
CQ Weekly Reports  
CIS Index  
USCCAN  
THOMAS |
|---|---|
| Step Seven: Presidential Statements | CO Weekly Reports  
CIS Index  
Public Papers of the President  
Weekly (through 2008) or Daily (2009- ) Compilation of Presidential Documents  
USCCAN |
| Step Eight: Law | Congressional Record  
CQ Weekly Reports  
CQ Almanac  
CIS Index  
Calendar of House/History of Legis.  
Statutes at Large  
U.S. Code  
USCCAN |
| Step Nine: Veto | Congressional Record  
CQ Weekly Reports  
CQ Almanac  
CIS Index  
Calendar of House/History of Legis.  
Public Papers of the President  
Weekly (through 2008) or Daily (2009- ) Compilation of Presidential Documents |
| Step Ten: Overriding Veto | Congressional Record  
CQ Weekly Reports  
CQ Almanac  
CIS Index  
House/Senate Journal |
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, confereee 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 104th 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—
GPO Access

- 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](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 Library
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

79th CONGRESS

1944–46
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON THE REVISION OF FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

AND ON THE FOLLOWING BILLS

H. R. 194, H. R. 283, H. R. 3112, H. R. 1500
H. R. 1364, and H. R. 2005
LexisNexis Congressional
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
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 (1st – 57th) look in the Legislative Reference Checklist (available on Hein). Bills are not referenced in the Statutes at Large until after 1903.
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. 102. Carryback of certain net operating losses allowed for 5 years; temporary suspension of 90 percent AMT limit.
Finding Single Documents

Compiling Documents
LexisNexis Congressional
Sample Committee Report

111th Congress
1st Session

House of Representatives

Rept. 111–137

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

Report

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
Bill Information on **THOMAS**

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

**NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP**

**H.R.43**

Title: To provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes.


<table>
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<tr>
<th>All Information (except text)</th>
<th>Text of Legislation</th>
<th>CRS Summary</th>
<th>Major Congressional Actions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Titles</td>
<td>Cosponsors (None)</td>
<td>Committees</td>
<td>All Congressional Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Bills</td>
<td>Amendments</td>
<td>Related Committee Documents</td>
<td>All Congressional Actions with Amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO Cost Estimates</td>
<td>Subjects</td>
<td></td>
<td>With links to Congressional Record pages, votes, reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INTERNET | Protected Mode On**
Information about the Bill on THOMAS

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

Item 1 of 1

PREVIOUS: ALL | NEXT: ALL
NEW SEARCH | HOME | HELP

H.R.4
Title: To provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes.

SUMMARY AS OF:
1/6/2009--Introduced.

Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009 - Amends the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to prohibit a person from possessing a firearm unless that person has been issued a firearm license under this Act or a state system certified under this Act and such license has not been invalidated or revoked. Prescribes license application, issuance, and renewal requirements.

Prohibits transferring or receiving a qualifying firearm unless the recipient presents a valid firearms license, the license is verified, and the dealer records a tracking authorization number. Prescribes firearms transfer reporting and record keeping requirements. Directs the Attorney General to establish and maintain a federal record of sale system.

Prohibits: (1) transferring a firearm to any person other than a licensee, unless the transfer is processed through a licensed dealer in accordance with national instant criminal background check system requirements, with exceptions; (2) a licensed manufacturer or dealer from failing to comply with reporting and record keeping requirements of this Act; (3) failing to report the loss or theft of the firearm to the Attorney General within 72 hours; (4) failing to report to the Attorney General a firearm transferred for the purpose of enjoyment or hunting that was found to have been stolen or lost; (5) failing to report a firearm that is acquired as a result of a death investigation, as required; and (6) failing to report a firearm that was commercially acquired through a federal firearms license.
http://www.Govtrack.us
GPO Access

Congressional Bills: Main Page

GPO Access contains all published versions of bills from the 103rd (1993-1994) Congress forward. The 111th Congress database is updated by 6 a.m. (EST) daily when bills are published and approved for release. The documents in these databases are available as ASCII text and Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.

The Congressional Bills documents for the 111th and 110th Congress on GPO Access have been digitally signed and certified. GPO has signed and certified the PDF files to assure users that the online documents are official and authentic. More on GPO's Authentication Initiative.

The digitally signed PDF files should be viewed using Adobe Acrobat or Reader version 7.0 or higher. Download the most recent version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Current Congress Only — 111th Congress (2009-10)

Quick Search (e.g. "hr. 12", "a. con. res. 2", "poor's farms")

Browse:
- All bills for the 111th Congress
- House Bills: H.R | H.Res | HConRes | HRes
- Senate Bills: S | S.Res | SConRes | SRes

Previous Congresses — 103rd (1993-94) Congress forward

Search bills by Congress
Browse bills by Congress and/or type of legislation
Search Tips
- Years and Session Dates of Congress
- Congressional Bills Glossary: Provides an explanation of abbreviations, types of legislation, and bill versions.
- Added and Deleted Text within Congressional Bills for ASCII text and PDF files.

Other Services
- Electronic subscription to the printed version of the Federal Register

Done
Congressional Quarterly (CQ.com)
http://www.opencongress.org
C-Span Legislative/Congressional Resources
Locating Relevant Legislative Documents with Citations
Locating Committee Reports

- **LexisNexis Congressional**: Full text of Committee Reports, 1989—.
- **LexisNexis**: The Committee Reports file (LEGIS;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**: 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**
Locating Committee Prints

- **LexisNexis 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 ([LEGIS;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** - includes committee prints from the 105th Congress (1997) to present and House & Senate Documents form 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**: 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** 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-BILTXT (for the 110th Congress), CONG-BILTXT109, CONG-BILTXT108, CONG-BILTXT107, CONG-BILTXT106, CONG-BILTXT105, and CONG-BILTXT104.
  - 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**: This subscription Internet database includes the full-text for only a limited number of recent hearings.
- **LexisNexis Databases**:
  - Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony ([LEGIS;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 ([LEGIS;POLTRN](#)): contains transcripts of congressional hearings since 1995.
  - Federal News Service ([LEGIS;FEDNEW](#)): includes a few congressional hearings since 1988 that relate to major news stories.
  - National Narrowcast Network Transcripts ([LEGIS;NNNTRN](#)): provides transcripts of select congressional hearings from October 1993 through July 2000.
Other Resources for Locating Hearings

- **GPO Access**: 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**: Includes the *Congressional Record* and its predecessor from the 1st Congress (1789) to the most recent.
- LexisNexis: The Congressional Record file (LEGIS;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**: 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: Legislative
- 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
- History of Bills
Upcoming Legislative Activity

- View current activity on floor at http://clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.html
- Senate 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