



Research Each Step in the **Lawmaking Process** Using **GPO Access**

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H.R.1 — Bill Introduced in House **and/or** S.1 — Bill Introduced in Senate

1

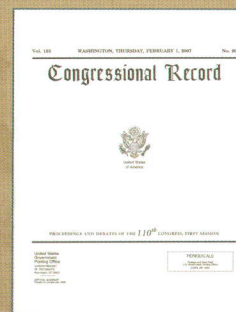
Congressional Bills

Contains all published versions of bills of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Once introduced, proposed legislation is sent to a committee or subcommittee for study, hearings, changes, and approval. It then goes back to where it originated, the full House or Senate, for debate and vote. If it is approved, the process is repeated in the other chamber. If both House and Senate approve the bill, it is sent to the President for signing or veto.

2

Congressional Record

Contains the official record of the debates and actions of the House and Senate and is published daily when Congress is in session. The *Congressional Record* serves as a transcript of the proceedings of Congress.



3

Bound Congressional Record

At the end of each session of Congress, all of the daily editions of the *Congressional Record* are collected, re-paginated, and re-indexed into a permanent, bound edition. The permanent edition, the *Bound Congressional Record*, is made up of one volume per session of Congress, with each volume published in multiple parts.

4

Public and Private Laws

Contains all bills that have been signed into law by the President. (Whether or not a bill was signed or vetoed, the President issues a statement in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, also available on *GPO Access*.)



5

Statutes at Large

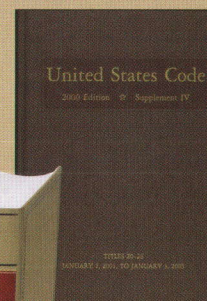
The permanent collection of all laws and resolutions enacted during each session of Congress. Every public and private law passed by Congress is published in the *Statutes at Large* in order of the date it was enacted into law. Also included in the *Statutes at Large* are concurrent resolutions, proclamations by the President, proposed and ratified amendments to the Constitution, and reorganization plans. Available in printed form only.

6

History of Bills

Chronologically lists all bills and resolutions that are reported in the *Congressional Record*. A *History of Bills* entry lists page numbers of the *Congressional Record* where House and Senate proceedings can be found, as well as names of sponsors and co-sponsors of bills, important dates, and actions taken on bills.

7



United States Code

The final step of the lawmaking process is the codification by subject matter of the laws of the United States into the *U.S. Code*. While updated every six years, an annual supplement to the *U.S. Code* is also released by the Office of the Law Revision Council.

Finding Legislative Information on GPO Access

In addition to being able to track Federal legislation, many other official, full-text congressional materials are available to the public via **GPO Access** at the request of Congress. A complete list of congressional resources available on **GPO Access** can be found at www.gpoaccess.gov/legislative.html.

Congressional Hearings

Committee or subcommittees may hold hearings to obtain testimony on proposed legislation or matters under investigation by Congress, and/or to review other aspects of Federal agencies or programs. Announcements of public hearings are made in the *Daily Digest* section of the *Congressional Record*.

Congressional Committee Prints

Congressional committees may order special background research reports prepared to be used during the time a specific legislative matter is being considered by the committee. These prints are issued irregularly and include situation reports, statistics, historical background and legislative analyses.

House, Senate and Treaty Documents

Contains a diverse collection of congressional and noncongressional materials. These materials include special congressional publications such as directories and manuals, treaties to be considered by the Senate, presidential messages to Congress and annual reports of some nongovernmental organizations.

House, Senate and Executive Reports

Bills that have been reported by a committee and sent for approval to the sponsoring chamber are accompanied by a written explanation, or committee report. These reports may include detailed analyses, committee rationales, issues disclosed in hearings, cost projections and views of committee members.

Legislative Calendars

Consists of the *House Calendar* and *Senate Calendar of Business*. The *House Calendar* contains a history of House and Senate bills and resolutions that have been reported or considered by either chamber. The *Senate's Calendar of Business* contains information on measures reported from the various standing committees, bills in conference and the status of appropriation bills.

Legislative and other Federal publications are available for purchase through the Superintendent of Document Sales Program at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>.

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