

## Electronic Legislative History Resources

When compiling a legislative history, follow the research categories below, in the order they are listed. This will simplify your task, by starting with the most comprehensive resources first. If you must search for individual congressional documents, they are listed on the following pages in their order of significance, as indicators of congressional intent.

**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.

### Already-Compiled Legislative Histories - Public Laws Only

1. **WCL Library online catalog** for compiled histories in collection (paper)
  - A. Keyword: legislative history and disabilit\* **or** legislative history and 101-336
2. **HeinOnline:** U.S. Federal Legislative History Library > Title Collection
3. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Congressional Publications (sidebar) > Search by Number tab
4. **LexisNexis:** Federal Legal-US > Legislative Histories > US CIS - Legislative Histories
  - A. Search query: pl(106-25) **or** enacted-bill(h.r. 800)
5. **LexisNexis** selected legislative histories: Federal Legal-US > Legislative Histories files (by title of act)
  - A. Search query: legislative history
6. **Westlaw** selected legislative histories: US Federal Materials > Arnold & Porter Collection databases (by title of act)
  - A. Search query: "legislative history" (must include quotation marks)
7. **HeinOnline:** U.S. Federal Legislative History Library > Sources of Compiled Legislative History Database (cites to compilations in articles, treatises and other sources)

### Bill Tracking Summaries (Chronological) with Links to Documents - All Bills

1. **Thomas:** Bills, Resolutions (sidebar) > Search Bill Summary and Status (1973-)
2. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Legislative Histories, Bills & Laws (sidebar) > Get a Document > Bill Tracking (drop-down menu) (1989-)
3. **LexisNexis:** Federal Legal-US > Legislative Histories > Bill Tracking Report-Current
4. **LexisNexis:** Federal Legal-US > Archived Bill Text & Tracking files (1989-)
5. **Westlaw:** US Federal Materials > Bill Tracking > Bill Tracking databases (1991-)

## Individual Documents - All Bills

### 1. Committee reports

- A. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Congressional Publications (sidebar) > Search by Number tab > drop-down menu selection (1990-)
- B. **LexisNexis:** Federal Legal-US > Legislative Histories > Committee Reports (1990-)
- C. **Westlaw:** US Federal Materials > US Code Congressional & Administrative News (USCCAN) > Legislative History Reports (selected 1948-1989, all 1990-)
- D. **Thomas:** Committee Reports (sidebar) (1995-)
- E. **GPO Access:** Legislative Resources > View All > (i) Congressional Reports (1995-) or (ii) Conference Reports (2005-)
- F. **House and Senate committee websites** via Thomas (selected) (1995-)

### 2. Floor debates (must cite paper or fiche *Congressional Record, Permanent Edition* (bound); cite recent electronic *Daily Edition* *only* if PE not yet published; PE to be digitized soon)

- A. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Congressional Record & Rules (sidebar) (Daily Edition, 1985-)
- B. **LexisNexis:** Federal Legal-US > Individual *Congressional Record* Materials files (Daily Edition, 1985-)
- C. **Westlaw:** US Federal Materials > Legislative History > *Congressional Record* (Daily Edition, 1985-)
- D. **Thomas:** Congressional Record (sidebar) (Daily Edition, 1989-) (includes browsable index from 1995-)
- E. **GPO Access:** (i) Legislative Resources > *Congressional Record* (Daily Edition, 1994- or (ii) Legislative Resources > View All > *Congressional Record Index* (1983-)

### 3. Committee hearings (must 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)

- A. **House and Senate committee websites** via Thomas (selective official PDF from GPO) (1995-)
- B. **GPO Access:** Legislative Resources > View All > Congressional Hearings (selective official PDF from GPO) (1995-)
- C. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Congressional Publications (sidebar) > Search by Number tab **or** Advanced Search tab (selective unofficial from FDCH and FNS) (1988-)
- D. **LexisNexis:** Legislation & Politics > US Congress > Committee Hearing Transcripts files (selective unofficial from FDCH and FNS) (1988-)
- E. **Westlaw:** US Federal Materials > Legislative History > US Congressional Testimony (selective unofficial from FDCH) (1993-)

#### 4. Bills and resolutions (all versions)

- A. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Legislative Histories, Bills & Laws (sidebar) > Get a Document tab > Bills **or** Legislative Histories (drop-down menu) (1989-)
- B. **LexisNexis:** (i) Federal Legal-US > Legislative Histories > Congressional Full Text Bills-Current Congress **or** (ii) Federal Legal-US > Archived Bill Text & Tracking files (1989-)
- C. **Westlaw:** US Federal Materials > Bill Tracking > Congressional Bills databases (1995-)
- D. **Thomas:** Bills, Resolutions (sidebar) > Search Bill Text (1989-)
- E. **GPO Access:** Legislative Resources > Congressional Bills (1993-)

#### News About Congressional Legislation

- 1. **LexisNexis Congressional:** Political News > Inside Washington (*Roll Call* (12/1989-), *The Hill* (1995-) and the *Washington Post* A section (national political coverage) (1977-))
- 2. **CQ Weekly:** Archive > Search Articles > Bills and Date Range dialog boxes (1983-)
- 3. **LexisNexis:** News & Business > News > By Industry & Topic > Government & Politics > Legislative News (*Roll Call*, (12/1989-), *The Hill* (1995-), *National Journal's Congress Daily* (6/1991-) 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-))

#### Key to Electronic Sources

- 1. **LexisNexis Congressional:** [web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp](http://web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp) (accessible from WCL network)
- 2. **CQ Weekly:** [library.cqpress.com](http://library.cqpress.com) (accessible from AU network)
- 3. **GPO Access:** [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov) (free public access)
- 4. **LexisNexis:** [www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool](http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool) (password required)
- 5. **Thomas:** [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov) (free public access)
- 6. **Westlaw:** [lawschool.westlaw.com](http://lawschool.westlaw.com) (password required)