Congressional Research Service Products: Taxpayers Should Have Easy Access

Special thanks go to Gary Ruskin, who has been one of the key driving forces behind broad public access to Congressional Research Service products. POGO also wants to thank Steve Katz for his assistance on this report.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Congressional Research Service (CRS), an arm of the U.S. Congress, authors such products as Reports to Congress, Issue Briefs, and Authorization and Appropriations Reports.

- CRS also operates both the CRS website (www.crs.gov) and the Legislative Information System (LIS) website (www.congress.gov). The LIS varies substantially from the system which is available to the public at the Library of Congress' THOMAS website (http://thomas.loc.gov). In fact, CRS has a special page detailing the enhanced capabilities of its restricted LIS website over the public THOMAS website, such as up-to-the-minute floor and committee schedules.

- Neither CRS's products nor its websites are readily available to the public. CRS products are only available to the public if one knows exactly where to go: A citizen must request them from his or her Member of Congress, undertake an exhaustive and time-consuming search for them, or pay for them. There is no predictable method of finding a report, as various outlets offer different reports. None of the free\(^1\) websites lists all of the CRS reports available to the public. The official CRS websites are not available to the public at all. To prevent public access to its websites, CRS has erected an elaborate firewall. As a Congressional entity, CRS is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and CRS does not answer direct public inquiries.

- Taxpayers pay for CRS products and for both CRS websites in addition to THOMAS. Private vendors such as Lexis, Penny Hill Press, and Westlaw sell some of these taxpayer-funded CRS products.

- Former Members of Congress, many of whom become lobbyists, can request current CRS publications and limited reference assistance. There are over 150 registered lobbyists who are former Members of Congress. Entities such as corporations, universities, and localities who can afford these high-priced lobbyists have access to current CRS publications that the general American public does not.

- While CRS has testified and written policy positions opposing the dissemination of its products to the public, other legislative agencies with functions similar to those of the CRS – the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) – have made their products available to the public without compromising their responsibilities to Congress, relinquishing their constitutional protections, or violating any legal prohibitions.

Recommendations

- CRS products such as Reports to Congress, Issue Briefs, and Authorization and Appropriations Reports should be made readily available to the general public. The Library of Congress should seek to bolster the public THOMAS website to include as much information from the CRS and LIS websites as possible.

\(^1\) A variety of websites collect and provide selected CRS products.
WASHINGTON’S BEST KEPT SECRET

“For a democracy to be dynamic and self-correcting, its governing institutions must be not only continuously accountable to the people but also solidly based on a body of knowledge that is both constantly expanding and available equally to those who legislate and to those who elect the legislators.” (Emphasis in the original)²

– Excerpt from Library of Congress Mission Statement

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a department within the Library of Congress. It acts as an arm of the U.S. Congress, researching and reporting on topics of interest to Congress. It then issues the information in both print and web form as CRS products. Its work provides Senators, Representatives, and their staffs with high quality non-partisan research and analysis. CRS had 694 employees and a budget of over $81 million during the Fiscal Year 2002.

According to the mission statement of the Library of Congress, “the unifying purpose of providing the public with essential library services, such as cataloging and reference help, is to afford as much access to useful information as possible to each of these three constituencies [Congress, the U.S. government more broadly, and the public].”³ Despite this, however, Congress has dictated since 1952 that it has control and custody of CRS products and that those products may be released only by Congress. (Appendix A, p. CRS-2) As CRS currently states on its report covers, “The Congressional Research Service works exclusively for the Congress, conducting research, analyzing legislation, and providing information at the request of committees, Members, and their staffs.” Those who elect the legislators are being denied direct access to a major wealth of information that directly affects the decisions of those who legislate.

Making certain types of CRS products and its websites widely available to the public would provide citizens with the type of high quality information necessary to actively and knowledgeably participate in public debate about current issues and the workings of our government.

This report does not seek to promote changes to CRS research methods or products, but only to their availability.


CRS Products

CRS's products include briefs, reports, short issue papers and longer position papers. These products provide research and policy analyses including scientific, economic, and legislative analyses; background analyses; pro and con arguments; and legislative histories.\(^4\) CRS goes to great lengths to ensure that all sides of an issue are clearly presented and that its products are both simple and easy to understand, making these reports an invaluable asset to public debate.


CRS Websites

In addition to these products, current Members of Congress and their offices both in Washington and in their home districts have access to the CRS website and to CRS's Legislative Information Service (LIS) website. These sites are the most comprehensive and integrated sources of information regarding workings of the federal government, and are arguably the best sources of information regarding the legislative process of the United States.

Not only is all proposed legislation available on these sites, but all information necessary to become informed about any aspect of government is available there as well. They have the information needed to keep up-to-the-minute on most legislation including information from past bills similar to the current legislation; historical information about the legislation; biographical data about the Members who introduced it; the ability to track the legislation as it moves through committee hearings to the Floor; and links to information about the legislation in the Congressional Record, Floor and committee schedule information, and the Federal Register. (Appendix B)

The CRS website (www.crs.gov) provides CRS publications on current legislative issues, electronic briefing books, information on the legislative and budget processes, a searchable database of all CRS products, and other information about Congressional procedures and activities.

The LIS website (www.congress.gov) is specifically designed to track legislation and legislative activity. According to the CRS, "The LIS ... provides bill summary and status, full text of legislation and public laws, full text of committee reports, hearings, and other documents, and the Congressional Record for the current and earlier Congresses. The system also gives (and is searchable by) committee, sponsorship, and cosponsorship; identification of identical bills; and other

information.⁵ The LIS varies substantially from the system which is available to the public at the Library of Congress’ THOMAS website (thomas.loc.gov). In fact, CRS has a special page detailing the enhanced capabilities of the restricted LIS website over the public THOMAS website.

Neither of these websites are available to the public, even though knowing what is happening when it is happening would be enormously empowering to citizens, activists, journalists, and academics following legislation.

In order to prevent public access to the websites, CRS has erected an elaborate firewall to keep the public out. In fact, when the public tries to access the LIS, they are automatically forwarded to THOMAS without warning. Taxpayers pay for both CRS systems in addition to THOMAS, yet are only allowed access to THOMAS.

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The following is CRS’s comparison of the two websites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LIS</th>
<th>THOMAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.congress.gov">www.congress.gov</a></td>
<td>thomas.loc.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who Can Use It</strong></td>
<td>Congress, including state and district offices, and legislative support agencies only.</td>
<td>Available to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Availability</strong></td>
<td>24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</td>
<td>24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Used For</strong></td>
<td>Finding the most complete legislative information for congressional staff or for a Member; obtaining information, using databases, and linking to pages that are not available to the public on THOMAS. Should not be used for making links from Member or committee home page (since the public cannot access LIS).</td>
<td>Working with constituents; making links from Member or committee home pages; making printouts that are to be sent to constituents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial Databases</strong></td>
<td>Links to databases that have been licensed for use by House and Senate staff, such as National Journal and the AP Newswire. Links from the status of a bill to National Journal markups.</td>
<td>No links to commercial databases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRS Reports</strong></td>
<td>Links from Bill Summary &amp; Status display to CRS reports and issue briefs related to a bill. Ability to search all CRS reports and issue briefs via the CRS Home Page; these products can be searched, displayed, and printed.</td>
<td>No CRS reports or issue briefs are available to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted Links</strong></td>
<td>Links to restricted Capitol Hill Web sites such as the House Intranet, Senate Webster, and Senate amendment tracking system.</td>
<td>No links to restricted Capitol Hill Web sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Floor &amp; Committee Schedule Information</strong></td>
<td>Links to Capitol Hill and outside sources of floor and committee schedule information, selected to be of most use to congressional staff.</td>
<td>Minimal links to floor and committee schedule information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Search Capabilities</strong></td>
<td>Special advanced search capabilities, providing Boolean searching (and, or, not), word proximity searching (quotes to indicate phrases, adj/l, near/l), and other features.</td>
<td>Only basic search capabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saved Searches and Email Alerts</strong></td>
<td>The ability to save searches and to request daily email alerts of new items added to databases that meet the search criteria.</td>
<td>No ability to save searches or request email alerts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last updated March 2002 (Emphasis added)

Well Known to Lobbyists

Unfortunately, neither CRS’s products nor its websites are readily available to the public. CRS, like other Congressional entities, is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), nor does it answer direct public inquiries. To receive a copy of a report, a citizen must request it from his or her Member of Congress, personally conduct an exhaustive search through various websites (see chart on page 11) that may or may not have it, or buy it from a private company.

Although CRS states that it is “well known, both in Washington, D.C. and by interested parties throughout the country, that constituents may obtain copies of CRS written products through a Member or Committee of Congress,” (Appendix A, p. CRS-4) CRS is actually not publicized at all even inside Washington, D.C. Furthermore, most Members of Congress do not currently publicize the availability of CRS or its products on their websites. Therefore, the vast majority of people outside Washington would have no way of knowing of its existence.

Even when constituents are aware of CRS and its products, Congressional staff are not always willing or able to provide copies of reports in a timely manner. While there are several websites which offer some CRS reports to those citizens who are aware of the service, the sites are frequently incomplete, out of date, and sometimes charge a fee for this publicly-funded research.

Independent companies obtain CRS reports from Capitol Hill sources and sell the reports or access to the reports. For example, reports from Penny Hill Press cost $29.95 each, or $7.95 for subscribers. A subscription is $299 per year or $549 for two years. Another company, IssueBrief.net, offers HTML reports for free but charges for downloaded PDF files. They have daily, weekly, and monthly fees for access to reports in PDF format. Sources told POGO that Westlaw and Lexis send representatives to Congressional offices to collect new CRS reports to place for sale on their respective websites. Penny Hill Press stated that the CRS reports they have for sale come from different sources throughout Washington.

The only people off Capitol Hill to whom the availability of CRS products may be well known are lobbyists. Former Members of Congress, many of whom become lobbyists, can request current CRS publications and limited reference assistance. Currently, there are over 150 registered lobbyists who are former Members of Congress. (Appendix C) Entities such as corporations, universities, and localities who can afford these high-priced lobbyists have access to CRS publications that the general American public does not.

The CRS Argument for Secrecy

In the past, CRS has testified and written policy positions against the dissemination of its products to the public. CRS has offered numerous excuses as arguments against allowing the public dissemination of its products. For example, Librarian of Congress James Billington has written that “... a variety of legal issues, cost considerations, institutional repercussions, and technical complexities need to be weighed carefully by Congress in developing policy for
Internet access to these materials.” (Appendix D) However, these concerns, some of which are identified below, need not permanently prevent public access to CRS information.

A few of CRS’s arguments against making its products directly available to the public are:

1. **Loss of Speech or Debate Clause Protections:** CRS has stated that to offer its products to the public could result in the loss of CRS’s Speech or Debate Clause protections, a provision granted to Members while speaking on the Floor of Congress. With this protection, Members cannot be sued for any statements made on the House or Senate Floors. By extension, Members’ staff, CRS, the General Accounting Office (GAO), committee staff, and other Congressional agencies are also covered by this protection.

CRS’s argument is undercut, however, by the fact that the GAO and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) have retained these protections while making their reports accessible and readily available to the public. The GAO, which is also part of the Legislative Branch and has a function similar to that of CRS, offers all of its unclassified reports to the public in hard copy or through its website at no charge. The GAO even voluntarily complies with the Freedom of Information Act, which requires federal agencies to disclose records but does not apply to Congressional entities, reasoning that “the spirit of the act [is] consistent with [GAO’s] duties and functions and responsibility to Congress.”7 The CBO also produces analyses for Congress and has a website that makes its reports available to the public. However, CRS refuses all public inquiries.

Outside experts familiar with the issue agree that CRS’s constitutional immunity would be protected if it made its products available to the public. Stan Brand,8 the former General Counsel to the House of Representatives, has also concluded that “[n]othing in [the bill to make CRS products publicly available] will alter or modify applicability of the Speech or Debate Clause protections to CRS products.” (Appendix E)

2. **Risk of Copyright Infringement:** CRS states that “there is some risk of assertion of copyright infringement [of original source material] if CRS materials are made available on-line to members of the general public.” However, in the same memo CRS also states that “[t]o the extent that the material is copyrighted, CRS either: obtains permission for the use; considers its information-gathering function protected by the speech or debate clause; or believes that the use falls under the ‘fair use’ doctrine of the Copyright Act as applied in the context of the legislative process.” (Appendix A, p. CRS-10) Given this statement, there should be no risk of copyright infringement.

Should CRS still be concerned about possible copyright infringement, Gary Ruskin, then-Director of the nonprofit Congressional Accountability Project, offered a number of solutions to counter the issue. CRS could ask permission to reproduce portions of copyrighted materials into reports and

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8 Stan Brand is counsel for the Project On Government Oversight.
explain that these reports will be placed on the Internet. CRS could also abridge or eliminate the more lengthy passages which may fall outside the “fair use” claim before the reports are placed on the Internet.9

3. Cost Considerations: CRS also mentions cost as a concern. However, a pilot project initiated by Representative Christopher Shays (R-CT) that makes some CRS products publicly available demonstrates how inexpensive providing access to CRS products through the Internet can be. Representative Shays’ website provides access to some CRS Issue Briefs, Short Reports, Long Reports, and Appropriations Reports. The pilot project cost only 60-80 hours of programming, 40-50 hours of testing, and the use of an additional existing server. A possibility other than establishing a new website would be to integrate as much information as possible from the CRS and LIS websites into the already-existing THOMAS system.

4. Peer Review of CRS Products: CRS states, “If CRS written products were routinely available on a wholesale basis to academic and other professional peers outside of Congress, CRS analysts might become more conscious of the need to address views, methods, disciplines, and expectations of non-congressional professional peers ... .” (Appendix A, p. CRS-6)

What CRS states as a negative is seen by many as beneficial. Quality peer and public review can only serve to increase the quality of the works produced, thus better informing Congress and the public. GAO embraced the idea that the quality of its reports will be improved through peer and public review. For example, GAO sends its final draft reports to the agencies it has investigated and includes the agencies’ comments in its final reports.

5. Member-Constituent Relations: Another of CRS’s concerns is that open access to its products will obstruct the Member-constituent relationship. Daniel P. Mulhollan, Director of CRS states:

“[It] threatens the important relationship that Members have with their constituents. Historically, constituents have gone to Members of Congress when they have questions about legislation .... The wholesale direct dissemination of CRS products to the public would bypass this long standing relationship by denying constituents the benefit of their Members’ additional insights, party viewpoints, or regional perspectives on CRS analysis.”10

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9 Memorandum from Gary Ruskin, Director of Congressional Accountability Project, Re: Placing Congressional Research Service Products on the Internet, January 5, 1998.

According to Librarian of Congress Billington:

"Disclosure of CRS reports and issue briefs by Members and Committees – and greater use of the Internet to achieve such disclosure – is seen as reaching the proper balance between the public’s desire for information on the issues before Congress, the preservation of CRS’ role in the legislative process, and the protection of the Member’s role in informing his/her constituents on their public policy concerns.” (Appendix D)

But public access to CRS material in no way obstructs Member-constituent relationships. It could, in fact, even improve that relationship. Well-informed constituents can only strengthen the democratic process by asking pertinent questions and offering educated opinions to their Members of Congress. One way of strengthening the relationship would be to establish a central database of CRS products to which Members of Congress could link, as is recommended in the bill to make CRS products publicly available. The Members would be serving their constituents by providing timely and unbiased analyses; the public would see their Members as trying to provide as much unbiased information as possible to keep their constituents well informed and able to participate in the governing process; and the public would have reason to frequent their Members’ websites.

Furthermore, improving Member-constituent relationships is hardly a valid argument for creating a monopoly on information. Constituents are entitled to this information in a timely manner without the ideological screening of their Members of Congress, with whom they may not agree.

A final point which also undermines CRS’s arguments against making its products public is the fact that the Government Printing Office (GPO) makes many old CRS reports available to the public through its federal depository libraries. Additionally, the Department of State makes current and archived copies of CRS reports, obtained from CRS, publicly available at their website.11

**Bipartisan Support for Making CRS Reports Public**

Congress has legislated that all executive agencies have complete websites. Furthermore, Members of Congress have shown a commitment to educating their constituencies through the development of personal websites and through hastened response times to constituent correspondence. These changes were made to increase transparency, provide citizens with a larger base of knowledge, and to facilitate public participation in the workings of our democracy.

Despite the advances the government has made in keeping the public informed through the use of the Internet, information available about Congress’ decision-making processes through the Internet remains limited. Many Members of Congress, including those at the highest level, seek to expand the amount of information available to the public.

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In 1998, then-Chairman of the Rules Committee Senator John Warner (R-VA) and Ranking Member Wendell Ford (D-KY) disseminated CRS products through the Committee’s website, taking the position that it is appropriate “for Members and Committees to use their web sites to further disseminate CRS products,” and, in fact, encouraging them to do so. (Appendix F) Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD) was the first to respond to this suggestion, putting almost 300 CRS products on his website. The CRS products are no longer accessible on this website.

Legislation that would make CRS Reports to Congress, Issue Briefs, and Authorization and Appropriations Reports available over the Internet has been introduced every Congress by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) or Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) since 1998. This initiative enjoys support from the leadership of both parties in the Senate.\textsuperscript{12} Bills have also been introduced in the past in the House by Representative Shays and Representative Jim DeMint (R-SC), and at least two Representatives—Representative Shays and Representative Mark Green (R-WI)—have placed many CRS products on their own websites in an attempt to make some CRS products available to the public. Of those websites researched by POGO, Representative Shays’ offers the most extensive free access to CRS reports, yet even this list is limited to those that the CRS makes available to him to make public.

Historically, many groups across the political spectrum have sought to make CRS products open to the public including: American Conservative Union, American Society of Newspaper Editors, Common Cause, League of Women Voters of the U.S., National Association of Manufacturers, National Newspaper Association, National Taxpayers Union, and Public Citizen. (Appendix G) Editorials and articles have been run in the media, including Austin American-Statesman, Minneapolis Star Tribune, MSNBC, Philadelphia Inquirer, Roll Call, and the San Jose Mercury News.

\textbf{Recommendations}

1. Unclassified CRS products such as Reports to Congress, Issue Briefs, and Authorization and Appropriations Reports should be made known and readily available to the public. Exceptions could be made for confidential and classified information and for subscription services.

2. The Library of Congress should seek to bolster the THOMAS website to include as much information from the CRS and LIS websites as possible. Again, exceptions could be made for confidential and classified information and for subscription services.

\textsuperscript{12} The legislation proposed in the 107th Congress, Senate Resolution 21, was co-sponsored by Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), and Trent Lott (R-MS).
Some reports are available at these websites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is Offering Reports</th>
<th>Where Reports are Located</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of State</td>
<td><a href="http://fpc.state.gov/c4763.htm">http://fpc.state.gov/c4763.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation of American Scientists</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fas.org/">http://www.fas.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries of the University of California</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/crs/">http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/crs/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Committee on the Judiciary</td>
<td><a href="http://www.house.gov/judiciary/crs.htm">http://www.house.gov/judiciary/crs.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Committee on Rules</td>
<td><a href="http://www.house.gov/rules/crs_reports.htm">http://www.house.gov/rules/crs_reports.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library for the Environment</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cnie.org/NLE/CRS">http://www.cnie.org/NLE/CRS</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Christopher Shays</td>
<td><a href="http://www.house.gov/shays/CRS/CRSProducts.htm">http://www.house.gov/shays/CRS/CRSProducts.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Mark Green</td>
<td><a href="http://www.house.gov/markgreen/w3ccrs.htm">http://www.house.gov/markgreen/w3ccrs.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Brief.NET*</td>
<td><a href="http://www.issuebrief.com">http://www.issuebrief.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LexisNexis (Subscription Service)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lexis.com">http://www.lexis.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny Hill Press**</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pennyhill.com">http://www.pennyhill.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westlaw (Subscription Service)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westlaw.com">http://www.westlaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As of February 5, 2003

* HTML reports are free, but Issue Brief.NET does charge to download PDF files. They have daily, weekly, and monthly fees for access to reports in PDF format.

** Reports cost $29.95 each, or $7.95 for subscribers. A subscription is $299 per year or $549 for two years.
Appendix A:

Congressional Policy Concerning the Distribution of CRS Written Products to the Public
Congressional Research Service
January 2, 1998
CONGRESSIONAL POLICY CONCERNING THE
DISTRIBUTION OF CRS WRITTEN PRODUCTS
TO THE PUBLIC

The following discussion reviews congressional policy concerning distribution of CRS products to the public and addresses issues for consideration by the Congress in determining whether to alter current policy regarding public availability of various CRS products, such as Reports and Issue Briefs.

As set forth below, CRS at present is precluded by law from general public distribution of its materials without prior approval by a congressional oversight committee. The Congress has actively exercised its oversight authority regarding CRS publication practices and has developed and promulgated standards to be applied in evaluating specific proposals. Current guidelines from the Joint Committee on the Library and other congressional bodies, issued in 1980, restrict the vast majority of CRS written products to congressional use and distribution to the public on a selective basis only.

Many years of congressional consideration of this issue reveal serious concerns about the institutional and legal consequences likely to result from the wholesale direct public distribution of CRS products with a potentially large circulation (e.g., CRS Reports and Issue Briefs).

1. BACKGROUND ON CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL POLICY
CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF CRS WRITTEN PRODUCTS TO
THE PUBLIC

A. Summary

- Congress has historically reserved to itself control over the dissemination of CRS products to the public on the principle that CRS, as an extension of congressional staff, works exclusively for the Congress.

- To maintain congressional control over dissemination, a provision has been included in CRS annual appropriations acts since FY1952 requiring prior oversight committee approval for any CRS publication (as noted
above, "publication" refers to wholesale release of CRS products directly to the public).

- Congress has never authorized the wholesale public dissemination of CRS analytical products such as Reports or Issue Briefs (and has seldom authorized publication of other products), whether by CRS or the Congress, but rather has preferred to rely on congressional release of individual products on a case-by-case basis.

- To further indicate the degree of congressional control over CRS products, Congress, the courts, and administrative tribunals have declared CRS communications to the Congress to be privileged under the Speech or Debate Clause of the Constitution and to be under the custody and control of the Congress. These determinations have assured the maintenance of confidentiality in CRS relationships with congressional clients, a critical element of CRS effectiveness and an expectation of those who seek its assistance.

B. Current Restrictions and Guidelines.

At present, CRS is precluded by law from general public distribution of its materials without prior approval by one of its two congressional oversight committees. This restriction results from a limitation that has appeared in CRS' annual appropriations acts in each year since FY 1952. This provision reads as follows:

"Provided, that no part of this appropriation may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Oversight or the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration."¹

The most recent policy statement from Congress regarding the publication of CRS written products came in 1980. In a communication, dated March 21, 1980, the Joint Committee on the Library reaffirmed:

"Congressional policy that the circulation of CRS materials prepared specifically for congressional use be limited to the Congress, and that the long-standing policy of confidentiality in the work of CRS for individual congressional clients should be maintained. We believe that, as in the past,

¹ For the current version of this provision, see Pub. L. 105-55, 111 Stat. 1190 (1997).
CRS and its oversight committees should consider the publication of only those CRS products whose release to the general public would be compatible, both in terms of cost and product content, with the CRS's obligations to the Congress.  

The 1980 guidelines were developed subsequent to a 1978 proposal to CRS by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) under which CRS would have received access to the files of State research materials abstracted by the NCSL, and also would have had the opportunity to order copies of desired items for use in answering congressional inquiries. In return, CRS would have provided the NCSL with periodic listings of CRS Reports (called "multiliths" at that time) and with only one copy of those CRS Reports which the NCSL requested. Under this proposal the NCSL also would have gained access to certain files from the Library of Congress's SCORPIO system, including CRS Issue Briefs.

On September 27, 1978, the Joint Committee on the Library held a hearing to consider the CRS-NCSL exchange proposal. At the hearing, the Committee concluded that any transmission of CRS material contained in SCORPIO to non-congressional users via computer terminal would constitute a "publication" and thus, under the terms of the language contained in CRS's annual appropriations legislation (noted above) would require the prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration or the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Moreover, members of the Joint Committee expressed serious reservations about any activity that might divert CRS resources and priorities from its statutory responsibilities to Congress. Finally, members of the Committee expressed the view that it was appropriate for Members of Congress, rather than CRS, to determine whether and to what extent various CRS products should be publicly disseminated. As a result, no action was taken to implement the proposed CRS-NCSL exchange.

The March 21, 1980 guidelines were followed later that month (March 27, 1980) by enactment of a Senate Resolution. (S. Res. 396, 96th Congress). The Senate resolved:

"That it is the determination of the Senate that the communications of the Congressional Research Service to the members and committees of the Congress are under the custody and control of the Congress and may be released only by the Congress, its Houses, committees and members, in accordance with the rules and privileges of each House."  

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2 126 Cong. Rec. 6892 (March 27, 1980). This Senate Resolution directed the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate and CRS in respect to a Federal Trade Commission administrative law judge's "sweeping subpoenas [on behalf of oil companies involved in a FTC proceeding] to the Congressional Research Service for documents which discuss the oil industry and governmental policy in relation to it."  Id. The Resolution stated that "the communications between the Congressional Research Service and the members and committees
Senate Majority Leader Byrd, in introducing the Resolution, noted CRS' role in advising members and committees on legislative issues and that CRS "thereby provides a service to the Members and committees of Congress which is equivalent to that performed by the staffs of Members and committees."\(^3\)

Over the years, and at the request of CRS, the Joint Committee on the Library has authorized a very limited number of CRS publications for broader distribution through depository libraries, the sales program of the Superintendent of Documents, and to the public through individual purchases. In addition, several CRS products are published as the result of specific statutory authorization: the \textit{Digest of General Public Bills and Resolutions (Bill Digest)};\(^4\) and three publications for which CRS has been given responsibility by the Librarian of Congress: the \textit{Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation (Constitution Annotated)};\(^5\) and the national high school and college debate topic manuals.\(^6\)

C. Current Accessibility of CRS Written Products

With few exceptions, congressional offices are the exclusive source for distributing CRS Reports and Issue Briefs to the public. Member offices use CRS products to develop their own understanding of policy issues and options and to inform their constituents regarding these issues and options. The principles of representative government and of legislative accountability hold that representatives have an obligation to provide their constituents with the information and understanding required in order to exercise democratic citizenship; that is, the democratic idea that the authority of those who govern rests on the consent of those who are governed, calls for democratic consent to be fully informed and enlightened.

It is well known, both in Washington, D.C. and by interested parties throughout the country, that constituents may obtain copies of CRS written products through a Member or Committee of Congress. In addition, congressional offices often respond directly to constituent requests for information on particular subjects by sending copies of CRS Reports and Issue Briefs. For example, during

\(^3\) Id.

\(^4\) 2 U.S.C. 166(d)(6).


\(^6\) 44 U.S.C. 1333.
fiscal year 1996, 690,000 copies of CRS Reports and Issue Briefs were sent to congressional offices. Some percentage of these are sent on to constituents -- either because constituents asked for them specifically or as a means of answering constituent requests for information.\footnote{CRS has not undertaken to survey congressional offices to determine this precise percentage.}

Moreover, current technology now enables Members and Committees to make CRS products available to constituents in electronic format through congressional Homepages. Recent enhancements to the CRS Issue Brief system, initially released to Congress on the CRS Homepage and now available also through the new Legislative Information System, make CRS Issue Briefs available in World Wide Web format (HTML). This upgrade makes it easier for Members and Committees to add Issue Briefs to their own Homepages for their constituents to the extent such availability is deemed appropriate by Members and Committees. Selected CRS Reports are also available to the Congress electronically through the CRS Homepage.

II. ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE WHOLESALE RELEASE OF CRS PRODUCTS TO THE PUBLIC

A. Institutional Issues

The direct, wholesale dissemination by Congress of Reports and Issue Briefs would have significant effects on the policies, resources, and institutional culture that CRS utilizes in serving the Congress.

First, CRS' mission is to support the Congress exclusively. Given its limited resources, CRS can undertake services to non-congressional entities (such as the public) only at the expense of direct support of the Congress. While the direct and indirect costs associated with disseminating Reports and Issue Briefs are difficult to estimate with precision, it is clear that significant resources would have to be diverted from congressional services. For example, with wider product distribution, particularly to users of the Internet/World Wide Web, CRS is more likely to get calls, comments, and requests for additions and changes that would place a burden on CRS analysts, distracting them from their work for Congress. In particular, outside parties may judge and question CRS papers on the basis of standards other than the standards CRS has developed to meet congressional needs (e.g., timeliness, non-partisanship, balance, objectivity). It is reasonable to anticipate that the volume of communications between CRS and the public, currently manageable, would rise substantially and affect the Service's ability to meet the needs of congressional requester. Any mechanisms developed by CRS
to shield analysts from these demands would of course also involve resource commitments.

Second, CRS analysts now direct their writings, focused on legislative issues, to congressional audiences. The closeness of CRS to the legislative process and the sensitivity of the Service’s traditional culture of exclusively supporting Congress’ legislative needs shape the nature and content of its written products. If CRS written products were routinely available on a wholesale basis to academic and other professional peers outside the Congress, CRS analysts might become more conscious of the need to address views, methods, disciplines, and expectations of non-congressional professional peers, with the result that CRS written work could shift away, or appear to shift away, from its current emphasis on the congressional audience.

With an awareness that a CRS Report would be disseminated to the public, Members may increase the number of confidential requests that they place with CRS in order to ensure that they are provided an opportunity—should they so desire—to reflect and consider questions that emerge from evolving legislative proposals before they have to respond to public inquiry about the resulting issues. This increase in confidential requests requiring more tailored responses would diminish the ability of CRS analysts to prepare reports that are generally available to Congress and that serve a broader congressional audience. With this increase in tailored analysis would come the necessity of duplicating more analysis because of the demand of those Members who request that their examination of a legislative proposal remain confidential at that point in the legislative process.

A third, related concern is potentially increased pressure from interest groups and lobbying organizations on CRS analysts concerning the content of their reports and the impact this pressure may have on serving the direct needs of the Congress for analysis and information that is non-partisan, objective, and balanced. Enhanced internal mechanisms would have to be developed to ensure that communications with interested parties did not deflect CRS analysts from producing products that are free from advocacy and bias, resulting in a further diversion of resources from direct service to Congress.

Fourth, CRS staff serve by statute as an extension of Member and committee staff. The release by Congress of CRS Reports and Issue Briefs may set a precedent leading to greater pressure to have studies prepared by congressional staff for Members’ exclusive use (e.g., committee staff studies distributed to entire committee membership) to be disseminated directly to the general public. It might be difficult for Congress to articulate a convincing rationale for granting public access to the Service’s work but denying equivalent access to materials prepared by other shared staff (e.g., committee staff) that are distributed to more than one Member. Thus, a policy of providing Members’ constituents with the same
materials that Members themselves draw upon to make legislative decisions could have serious implications for the functions of staff and their relationship with Members.

B. Legal Issues

This section considers three pertinent legal issues associated with the wholesale dissemination of CRS products to the public. The first two issues involve the speech or debate clause of the Constitution and the third deals with intellectual property questions.

1. Widespread electronic dissemination to the general public of CRS Reports and Issue Briefs would be more likely than dissemination pursuant to current policy to precipitate litigation in which speech or debate clause immunity would not be a defense.

Since its 1972 ruling in United States v. Brewster, the Supreme Court has limited the immunity afforded under the speech or debate clause to "legislative acts," which were distinguished from a range of activity described as "entirely legitimate" but unprotected by the speech or debate clause because it was considered to be "political in nature." In several cases relevant to the applicability of speech or debate immunity to the public distribution of CRS products, the Court has relied on the dichotomy established in Brewster to hold that congressional activities intended to inform the general public are outside the scope of the speech or debate clause. Notably, in Doe v. McMillan, the Court found that the clause might not protect the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents from liability for distribution of a committee report, which contained material alleged to have invaded individual privacy rights, beyond "the legitimate legislative needs of Congress...."

The dissemination (by Members and/or their aides, by CRS, or by a congressionally designated entity) to the general public of CRS products would not

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8 U.S. Constitution, Art. 1, § 6, clause 1.


10 Doe v. McMillan, 412 U.S. 306, 324 (1973)(emphasis added). The Court remarked for a determination as to whether the extent of distribution by the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents had exceeded "the legitimate legislative needs of Congress, and hence the limits of immunity." Id. On the remand, the lower courts upheld the claim of immunity as to the Public Printer and Superintendent of Documents (374 F. Supp. 1313 (D.D.C. 1974), aff'd, 566 F.2d 713 (D.C.Cir. 1977), cert. denied, 435 U.S. 969 (1978)), but the court of appeals expressly reserved the question of the availability of immunity "in a case where distribution was more extensive...." 566 F.2d at 718. Apparently the only copies distributed outside the federal government in the events that precipitated the suit in McMillan were approximately 172 of 796 copies that had been distributed to various federal agencies.
be viewed as a legislative act but would be considered to be an exercise of Congress' representational function, for which speech or debate immunity is not available. Those engaged in public distribution of CRS products, as well as CRS analysts who prepare the products, may be vulnerable to a variety of administrative and judicial proceedings. In such actions, litigants might seek, for purposes of discovery, the files of CRS analysts or litigants might ask for damages or injunctive relief barring further distribution of a particular report or issue brief. Litigants might also claim damages in suits alleging copyright infringement.

It would seem that these kinds of actions would be more likely to occur as a result of widespread electronic dissemination to the general public of CRS products than from the current practice of limited distribution (e.g., dissemination by a congressional office of a single hard copy of a particular CRS product to a constituent or incorporation of a CRS product in a committee report or hearing).

2. **Widespread electronic public dissemination of CRS products would jeopardize the confidentiality of CRS files and hamper a claim of constitutional immunity by CRS.**

Widespread electronic circulation of CRS products to the general public could set CRS on a course accompanied by uncertain legal consequences.12

An inevitable consequence of widespread distribution of CRS products to the general public would be an increase in public awareness of the research and analysis prepared by the Service for Congress, which could escalate the efforts of litigants to obtain, for purposes of discovery, CRS analysts' files. These discovery attempts might seek not only information and data used to develop CRS Reports and Issue Briefs but also related material from the Service's files.

Speech or debate immunity may provide a valid defense in such discovery proceedings if the subject of the proceedings is a protected legislative act.13 However, it is noted that, even in those cases in which CRS succeeded in defending against discovery efforts, the litigation would place a burden on CRS.

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12 As one legal journal has observed, in addressing the Internet and other computer-related issues, the courts are on "uncharted water." *Thou Shalt Not Trespass--Even in Cyberspace*, New Jersey Lawyer, Sept. 1, 1997, at p. 10.

and other congressional resources\textsuperscript{14} and could put judges in the position of arbitrating disputes concerning the confidentiality of communications between CRS and Congress.\textsuperscript{15} Claims of speech or debate immunity would be subject to review by the courts, potentially including \textit{in camera} inspection of material as to which a claim of privilege is made\textsuperscript{16} and segregation of protected from non-protected material.\textsuperscript{17} Arguably, this type of judicial sifting of legislative branch materials would impinge upon the interest in confidentiality served by the speech or debate clause.\textsuperscript{18}

Further, for two reasons, it is uncertain whether Congress would prevail in litigating such matters. First, it is possible that a court would not precisely differentiate among the information in the superficially similar types of documents in a CRS subject file and would grant litigants access not only to publicly available information but also to confidential communications between the Service and congressional offices. Second, in previous instances in which CRS has been involved in litigation or agency proceedings, the judicial or agency decision has emphasized that CRS performs a legislative function and that its staff functions as an adjunct of Member and committee staff.\textsuperscript{19} With wider dissemination of CRS products to the general public, this longstanding perception of the Service and the nature of its communications to the Congress could be altered, eventually putting at risk speech or debate protection for the Service's confidential work. In other words, extensive involvement by CRS in the direct public information function could lead courts and administrative agencies to reconsider their perception of CRS as playing a significant and unique support role in the legislative process, and thus

\textsuperscript{14} Discovery attempts to obtain CRS file materials have often been defended by the offices of House General Counsel or Senate Legal Counsel. See, e.g., S.Res. 291, 101st Cong. (resolution directing Senate Legal Counsel to represent a CRS attorney in \textit{Smith v. IRS}, No. 3778-89 (Tax Ct. 1990)).


\textsuperscript{17} See, e.g., \textit{United States v. Helstoski}, 442 U.S. 477, 488 n.7 (1979).

\textsuperscript{18} The courts are divided on the question of whether the speech or debate clause was intended to ensure confidentiality for legislators. \textit{Compare Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.}, 62 F.3d at 420 with \textit{In re Grand Jury Investigation}, 587 F.2d at 597.

\textsuperscript{19} See \textit{Webster v. Sun Oil}, 731 F.2d 1 (D.C.Cir. 1984) and 790 F.2d 157 (D.C.Cir. 1986)(communications to CRS analyst are within scope of common law privilege for communications to a legislative body); \textit{In re Exxon Corporation}, 95 F.T.C. 919 (1980)(FTC subpoena for CRS documents barred by speech or debate immunity and separation of powers doctrine; CRS performs an "essentially legislative function").
some day might hamper a claim of immunity even in an instance in which CRS was fulfilling its legislative function.\textsuperscript{20}

3. There is some risk of assertion of copyright infringement if CRS materials are made available online to members of the general public.

United States copyright protection is not available for U.S. Government works.\textsuperscript{21} Those portions of a public document authored by the U.S. Government are in the "public domain"—freely and widely available to the public without restrictions placed on their dissemination. However, the government’s inclusion of copyrighted material in a government publication does not thrust that material into the public domain or impair the rights of the copyright owner.\textsuperscript{22}

CRS may incorporate preexisting material in its written responses to congressional requests. Although such material is often from public domain sources, in certain instances the material, appropriately credited, may be from copyrighted sources. To the extent that the material is copyrighted, CRS either: obtains permission for the use;\textsuperscript{23} considers its information-gathering function protected by the speech or debate clause; or believes that the use falls under the "fair use" doctrine of the Copyright Act\textsuperscript{24} as applied in the context of the legislative process.

The exclusive rights\textsuperscript{25} of the copyright owner are qualified or limited by enumerated exceptions.\textsuperscript{26} Unless excused by a statutory exception, the unauthorized use of a copyrighted work is considered an infringement. Fair use

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{20} See, Doe v. McMillan, note 9, supra.
\item \textsuperscript{21} 17 U.S.C. § 105.
\item \textsuperscript{22} The legislative history of the Copyright Act contains the following statement:

The committee here observes: (1) there is nothing in section 105 that would relieve the Government of its obligation to secure permission in order to publish a copyrighted work; and (2) publication or other use by the Government of a private work would not affect its copyright protection in any way.

\item \textsuperscript{23} Although CRS obtains permission to reproduce certain copyrighted works, the permissions are generally based on legislative use and the expectation that dissemination is limited to Members of Congress.
\item \textsuperscript{25} 17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 106A.
\item \textsuperscript{26} 17 U.S.C. §§ 107-120.
\end{itemize}
is one of the limitations on the copyright owner's exclusive rights and may be invoked as an affirmative defense to a claim of copyright infringement.

The copyright statute does not expressly include congressional use of copyrighted works as a fair use. However, both the House and Senate Reports on the Copyright Act of 1976 include the "reproduction of a work in legislative or judicial proceedings or reports" among examples of fair use. The legislative history also contains an observation that publication of copyrighted material in Congressional documents would constitute fair use "[w]here the length of the work or excerpt published and the number of copies authorized are reasonable under the circumstances, and the work itself is directly relevant to a matter of legitimate legislative concern..."

Thus, in an infringement action, a court might regard the publication of copyrighted material in a Congressional document for legitimate legislative purposes as a "fair use." If, however, the use is outside of such legislative purposes, it is possible that a traditional fair use analysis might result in liability for copyright infringement. Wider dissemination outside the confines of Congress would further complicate the "fair use" question.

The copyright laws do not contain an exemption from copyright infringement for unauthorized use of copyrighted materials by the U.S. Government. Subsection 1498(b) of Title 28 of the U.S. Code provides that the exclusive remedy of a copyright owner for copyright infringement by the United States is an action against the United States in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims "for the recovery of ... reasonable and entire compensation ... including the minimum statutory damages ...." Speech or debate clause immunity is not waived under § 1498(b); however, activities outside of the legislative sphere would not be shielded from a copyright infringement action.

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28 See H.R. Rep. No. 1476, Id. at 73.

29 Moreover, if CRS products were generally available to the public, the construction of these products may be affected, with the potential consequent loss when material, such as copyrighted maps or graphs, may be withheld in the writing of the paper with the foreknowledge that the paper could be widely disseminated and thereby subject to different "fair use" guidelines than those applicable to work for legislative use only. Therefore, public availability may perform the selected CRS products so that their contents no longer bring to bear the best information and analysis to assist Members in their decisionmaking.

30 As originally enacted, § 1498 applied only to suits for patent infringement against the United States. In 1960, Congress amended § 1498 to give its consent to suits for copyright infringement against the United States; Section 2 of Pub. L. 86-726 provided:

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to in any way waive any immunity provided for Members of
In summary, where permission has been granted to CRS to use copyrighted material, it has likely been based on legislative purpose and limited to selective distribution of hardcopy by Members of Congress. If access is broadened to wholesale release to members of the general public, such release may be outside the scope of "legitimate legislative purpose." If a CRS product, containing substantial copyrighted material (albeit with appropriate credit) is made available to the general public without permission and outside the confines of traditional fair use, liability is possible. In this regard, distinctions can be made between the selective distribution of hardcopy CRS products by Members and Committees and wholesale, potentially world-wide distribution of CRS products on the Internet. Violation of any of the exclusive rights of the copyright owner may give rise to an action for copyright infringement. Although the extent of copyright owners' rights in the online environment is still evolving, wholesale distribution of CRS products via the Internet - unlike the current practice - would likely implicate copyright owners' performance and public display rights, as a matter of direct infringement, and may implicate rights of reproduction and public distribution either as a matter of direct, vicarious or contributory infringement. On the other hand, under a "fair use" analysis, there is likely less effect upon the potential market of the copyright owner in the case of selective hardcopy distribution than in the case of wholesale distribution on the Internet. Selective distribution of hardcopy CRS products by Members may not constitute "publication" in the copyright sense.

III. CONCLUSION

To review, Congress has historically regarded CRS as an extension of its own Member and committee staff. CRS' relationship with Congress is confidential and exclusive; in order to preserve this relationship, Congress has determined as a

Congress under article I of section 6 of the Constitution of the United States.

Section 2 was added to the House bill by Senate amendment in order "to emphasize the fact that no immunities for Members of Congress under article I of section 6 of the Constitution shall be waived by the enactment of this legislation." See S. Rep. No. 1877, 86th Cong., 2d Sess. (1960) as reprinted in 1960 U.S.C.A.A.N. 3444. Presumably, speech or debate clause protection would protect Congressional use of copyrighted material that is used to further legitimate legislative activities that are part of the legislative process (e.g., copyrighted material inserted into the Congressional Record or congressional document). See Copyright Office Memorandum of May 26, 1958 reprinted in 1960 U.S.C.A.A.N. at 3456. Congress did not waive its speech or debate clause immunity when it amended § 1498. However, insofar as activities outside of the legislative sphere (e.g., political activities or public information activities) are concerned, it would appear that § 1498(b) would not shield Congress from a copyright infringement action.


matter of policy that CRS products are to be distributed to non-congressional users through congressional offices on a selective basis. Proposals to disseminate CRS products directly to the public would fundamentally change this longstanding congressional policy, with potentially significant institutional and legal consequences for CRS and current congressional operations and practices.
Appendix B:

A-Z Site Index
Legislative Information System of the U.S. Congress
A-Z Site Index:

For quick results, use Ctrl+F to search this page.

Alphabetically indexes legislative information sources, search features, browse lists, help pages, and LIS Search Tips. Lists Topics (pre-defined legislative searches ready for your use) and ways to find bills by sponsor, title, subject, date, major action, other action, and more. Records alphabetically the LIS links to Senate, House, Congressional agency, executive, judicial, and media resources.

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

... Amendments Bills Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...

About ...

About the Legislative Information System [Frequently Asked Questions]
About the Legislative Information System: How to Pick a Search Page
LIS Alert Service: About Alert Service
LIS Bills: About Advanced Search, About Quick Search, and About MultiCongress Search Bill Summary & Status (BSS) pages
LIS Bills: About Bill Lists page
LIS Bills: About Full Bill Text Search page
LIS Committee Publications: About Committee Reports Search page and About Committee Publications Lists page
LIS Congressional Record / Congressional Record Index: Congressional Record Help

Access (GPO Access). See: GPO
Action on legislation. See: Status of legislation
Advocacy groups. See: Think tanks and advocacy groups
Agencies [LIS Agencies tab]
Agreed to ...

Amendments agreed to. See: Major actions on (bills and) amendments
Amendments agreed to in Committee of the Whole. See: Other actions on ... amendments - House amendment actions ...
Amendments between the houses after initial passage. See: Resolving differences
Bills passed and resolutions agreed to. See: Passed
Conference reports agreed to. See: Conference
Measures passed over veto. See: Vetoes

Alert Service ...

About Alert Service [LIS Alert Service]
My searches and alerts [LIS Alert Service]
Sign-on [LIS Alert Service]
allpolitics.com [political news from CNN / Time]

Amendments between the houses after initial passage. See: Resolving differences
Amendments to bills, resolutions ...

Bill Summary & Status [The BSS file is the primary resource for amendments - 95th Congress to present]
Committee of the Whole - Amendment actions. See: Other actions on ... amendments - House amendment actions ...

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Consideration / debate [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [106th, 2nd session-]
CRS products [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays]
Dates. See: Dates
Lists of amendments by amendment number [in Browse Bills by Type]
Number [search and display in Bill Summary & Status] [Help and Anomalies-missing amendment numbers]
Number: Explanation of amendment numbering systems
Number: Fastest way to find an amendment when you know the number [Search Tips item]
Purpose (description) [search in Words box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Senate pending and proposed amendments [in Senate Amendment Tracking System]
Senate amendments via LIS Home tab: How to pick a search page [what's in Senate amendments, when to use other files]
Sponsor / cosponsor searching, advanced searching + sponsor list [in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Status [search in Words box in Bill Summary & Status] [Tips on status searches]
Status - Major actions / Other actions. See: Major actions / Other actions on (bills and) amendments
Text [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [103rd-]
See also: Bills, Congress, Cong Record, House, Members, Schedules, Senate, Votes.

Amendments to the Constitution ...
Constitutional amendments proposed [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Existing amendments [from the THOMAS Historical Documents collection]
Proposed Constitutional amendments [Search Tips item]
See also: Constitution.

Anniversaries legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Anomalies [missing bill and amendment numbers]
AOC (Architect of the Capitol) ...
AOC home page [United States Capitol home page]
Capitol grounds [description and history]
Current projects [current and recent projects at the U.S. Capitol]

Appropriations ...
Appropriations legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Continuing appropriations legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Discretionary appropriations, current status [Congressional Budget Office] [FY2001 + FY2002]
Emergency supplemental appropriations legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Finding the status of appropriations bills in LIS [Search Tips item]
FY1988 to present: Appropriations bills, committee reports, and Public Laws [lists from the Senate Library]
FY1999: Status chart [from CRS] and CRS products on appropriations legislation
FY2000: Status chart [from CRS] and CRS products on appropriations legislation
FY2001: Status chart [from CRS] and CRS products on appropriations legislation
FY2002: Status chart [from CRS] and CRS products on appropriations legislation
FY2003: Status chart [from CRS] and CRS products on appropriations legislation
Legislation authorizing appropriations [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations [Congressional Budget Office] [1998-] [Search Tips item]
See also: Budget

Architect of the Capitol. See: AOC
Associated Press. See: NewsEdge Insight
Asterisks: Word endings using asterisks when searching LIS [Search Tips item]

Authorizing ...
Legislation authorizing appropriations [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation authorizing monuments, memorials [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation authorizing scholarships, fellowships [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Biographical Directory of the United States Congress [1774-]
Bill of Rights [from the THOMAS Historical Documents collection]

Bill Summary & Status (BSS) ...
Sponsors, cosponsors, titles, committees, status, summaries + subjects. Link to text, the Record, reports, votes + CRS products. [93rd-]
Bills: Advanced search
Bills: Quick search
Bills: Multi-Congress search
Help files. See: Help - Bill Summary & Status, Help - Bill Summary & Status-Displays
How to pick a search page [when to use Quick vs. Advanced vs. Multi-Congress searching, when to use other files]

Bill Text ...
Search text of all versions of bills and resolutions. [101st-]
Bills: Full bill text search
Help files. See: Help - Bill Text
How to pick a search page [when to use Full Bill Text; when to use other files]

Bills and resolutions ...
Bill Summary & Status [The BSS file is the primary resource - 93rd Congress to present]
Bill type searching: Bills, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, resolutions ... [in Bill Summary & Status] [101st-]
Committee / subcommittee searching + advanced searching [referred, reported, discharged ...] [in Bill Summary & Status]
[Help]
Consideration / debate [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [103rd-]
Cost estimates for bills [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; from CBO; 106th-] [Search Tips item]
CRS products [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays]

Dates. See: Dates
Floor. See: Floor

History of bills and resolutions. See: History of bills and resolutions
Hot bills list [Senate Library list of key House + Senate legislation] [Search Tips item]
Lists tab: Bills lists page [Help] and List of bills by bill number [in Browse Bills by Type]
Number [search and display in Bill Summary & Status: Help, Anomalies-missing bill numbers] + Fastest way to find bill by number
Related bills: Bill Summary & Status links to related bills and incorporated / related bills [Search Tips items]
Sponsors and cosponsors. See: Sponsors and cosponsors
Status. See: Status of legislation

Subjects and topics. See: Subject term searching and Topics [predefined searches]
Summaries [search in Words box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help and Search Tip]
Text: Bill Text or Bill Summary & Status [BSS provides links to bill text but searches summaries of bills]
Text versions: Finding and viewing versions of bills [Search Tips item]
Text versions: THOMAS list [in rough procedural order] and GPO Access list [in alphabetical order with some definitions]
Titles. See: Titles of legislation

See also: Amendments, Committees, Congress, Cong Record, House, Laws, Members, Schedules, Senate, Votes.

BNA: Daily Report for Executives [Senate FrontPage: Senate access only]
Books: Borrow books from the Library of Congress

Boolean ...
Boolean connectors and proximity operators for searching LIS
Order of processing of connectors
Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 3: Using Boolean connectors (and, or, not) [Search Tips item]

Browse lists in LIS files...

Browse bills by type [includes amendments; Bill Summary & Status; 93rd-]
Conference reports printed in the Congressional Record [via Congressional Record Lists tab]
Congressional Record by date and section: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [Search Tips item]
Congressional Record Index [browse or search; prefer browsing] [103rd Congress, 2nd session-]
Date of all actions on bills and amendments [Bill Summary & Status; 101st-]
Days-in-session calendars: House [94th - present] and Senate [95th, 2nd session - present]
Lists tabs: Bills lists page [Help], Committee publications lists page [Help], Congressional Record lists page [Help]
Major actions on bills and amendments [Bill Summary & Status; 101st-]
Private Laws [96th-]
Public Laws [93rd-]
Senate executive files [Lists tab for Senate executive communications, nominations, treaties]
Sponsors and cosponsors of bills and amendments [Bill Summary & Status; 93rd-]
Subject terms applied to bills - browse subject terms: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [Help + Search Tips]
Text of introduced bills - list of full text bills (latest version): 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [Bill Text]
Titles of bills - browse popular and short titles: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [Bill Summary & Status] [Search Tips item]
Treaties with votes on resolutions of ratification [lists] [103rd-]
Vetoed bills: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101, 100, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93

Browser navigation. See: Search Tips

BSS. See: Bill Summary & Status

Budget...

CRS guides to Congressional processes [legislative, budget, oversight, and other processes]
FY2003 budget [via GPO Access, includes budgets from FY1996 to present]

See also: Appropriations

Buildings: Legislation designating buildings, facilities, structures [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Bureau of National Affairs. See: BNA

By request. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]

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

... Amendments, Bills, Committees, Congress, Cong Record, Floor, House, Laws, Leadership, Members, Schedules, Senate, Votes...

C-SPAN...

Audio & video
Capitol Spotlight [weekly online newsletter from C-SPAN and CQ]

Home page
Live audio and video of floor and committee proceedings [Search Tips item]
Schedule: House and Senate [Congress Today and future; floor and committee]

Votes: Congressional vote search

Cabinet members [list compiled by CRS]

Calendars...

Current session: House and Senate [pdf]
Days-in-session calendars: House [94th - present] and Senate [95th, 2nd session - present]
Executive calendars [with explanations of calendar data] - Senate only
Legislative calendars [with explanations of calendar data] - House and Senate

See also: Schedules

Cancellations. See: Line item vetoes

Capitol Spotlight [weekly online newsletter from C-SPAN and CQ]
Caucuses: House [list from House Administration: Office of Member Services] and Senate
CAQ [Chief Administrative Officer; House access only]
Capitol (U.S. Capitol) ...
  AOC home page [United States Capitol home page]
  AOC current projects [current and recent projects at the U.S. Capitol]
  Capitol grounds [description and history]
CBO (Congressional Budget Office) ...
  CBO documents [CBO Search Tips list and description of CBO documents]
  Cost estimates for bills [at CBO site; search by bill no, budget function, revenue effect, comm; 105th-]
  Cost estimates for bills [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; 106th-] [Search Tips item]
  Discretionary appropriations, current status [Congressional Budget Office] [FY2001 + FY2002]
  Home page
  Search for documents
  Unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations [1998-] [Search Tips item]
Center for Legislative Archives [National Archives repository of Congressional records]
Century of lawmaking [Congressional documents and debates 1774-1873; from the Library of Congress American Memory project]
Chief Administrative Officer of the House [CAO; House access only]
CFR. See: Code of Federal Regulations
Cleared for the White House. See: President
Clearing search pages in LIS to avoid unexpected results [Search Tips item]
Clerk of the House. See: House of Representatives
CNN: allpolitics.com [political news from CNN / Time]
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) ...
  Code of Federal Regulations [National Archives]
  Section/subpart citation searching [National Archives]
  See also: Federal Register
Codification of Presidential proclamations and executive orders [National Archives] [1945-1989]
Coins: Legislation on commemorative coins [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Commercial sources [news, commercial sources, media coverage of Congress; LIS Media tab]
Commemorative legislation ...
  Commemorations legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
  Commemorations legislation [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
  Legislation on commemorative coins [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
  Legislation on commemorative postage stamps [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
  Legislation on special days, weeks, months, years [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Committees and subcommittees of Congress ...
  A directory of House committees [current Congress] and Senate committees [current Congress]
  Caucuses: House [list from House Administration: Office of Member Services] and Senate
  Committee of the Whole. See: House of Representatives
  Committee documents [selected House + Senate documents, GPO Access]
  Committee prints [selected, GPO Access]
  Committee publications: House [selected, GPO Access] and Senate [selected, GPO Access]
  Committee reports search [search text of committee and conference reports] [104th-]
  Committee reports-Help files. See: Help - Committee Reports
  Committee reports- How to pick a search page [what's in it, when to use other files]
  Conference reports. See: Conference reports
  Discharge. See: Discharge
  Hearings. See: Hearings
  Home pages: House and Senate [House + Senate comm home pages may include transcripts of hearings, markups + reports]
  Jurisdictions: House and Senate
  Markups. See: Markups

Member assignments. See: Members
Originated in committee. See: Originated in committee
Referred to committee. See: Referred to committee
Reported by committee. See: Reported by committee
Rules and precedents. See: Rules, precedents and procedures
Schedules. See: Schedules
Telephone directories for committees: House [coming soon; unlimited access] and Senate [Senate access only]
Votes in committee. See: Markups
See also: Bills, Congress, Cong Record, House, Floor, Senate.

Communications ...
Executive communications to the House [search catalog] [100th-] [Help]
Executive communications to the Senate [search catalog] [96th-] [Help]

.Concurrent resolutions. See: Bills and resolutions

Conference reports and conference actions ...
Bills in conference [description + link to GPO Access; part of House calendar; updated once a week; current info only]
Bills in conference and conference actions. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Bills through conference [description + link to GPO Access; part of House calendar; updated once a week; current info only]
Bills with conference committee actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Bills with conference report filed [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with conference report agreed to in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with conference report disagreed to in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with conference report agreed to in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with conference report disagreed to in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with resolving differences/conference-House actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Bills with resolving differences/conference-Senate actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Committee reports [search text of committee and conference reports] [104th-]
Conference reports printed in the Congressional Record [via Congressional Record Lists tab]
Latest major actions on bills and amendments [scroll down for conference actions as latest major action] [101st-]

Search Tips: Bills in conference
Search Tips part 1: Find bills for which conferees have been appointed?
Search Tips part 2: Find conference reports by bill number in Bill Summary & Status
Search Tips part 3: Find conference reports by searching the Congressional Record Daily Digest
Search Tips part 4: Find conference reports by searching the Congressional Record
Search Tips part 5: Find conference reports by searching committee reports

Suspension of rules in House during conference action. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
See also: Committees, Floor, Passed/Failed of passage.

Congress ...
Biographical Directory of the United States Congress [1774-]
Century of lawmaking [Congressional documents and debates 1774-1873; from the Library of Congress American Memory project]
Congress [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
CQ American Congressional Dictionary [definitions of Cong practices + procedures] [Search Tips item]
Sessions of Congress. See: Sessions of Congress
THOMAS historical documents collection [Continental Congress, Constitutional Convention ...]
See also: Amendments, Bills, Committees, Cong Record, House, Laws, Members, Schedules, Senate, Votes.

Congress.org ...
Home page

Congressional ...
Congressional agency - CBO (Congressional Budget Office). See: CBO
Congressional agency - CRS (Congressional Research Service). See: CRS
Congressional agency - GAO (General Accounting Office). See: GAO
Congressional agency - GPO (Government Printing Office). See: GPO
Congressional agency - Library of Congress. See: Library of Congress
Congressional Budget Office. See: CBO
Congressional Directory [official printed directory from GPO Access]
Congressional district maps [Search Tips item]
Congressional districts: Sponsors and cosponsors by state and district [search in Bill Summary & Status] [Search Tips item]
Congressional liaison offices of selected federal agencies [list compiled by CRS] [PDF format]
Congressional Pictorial Directory [GPO Access]
Congressional Quarterly. See: CQ
Legislation on Congressional gold medals [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation on Congressional Medals of Honor [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation on Congressional salaries [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation on Congressional term limits [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation on Congressional tributes [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Congressional Record ...
Amendment consideration / debate [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [106th, 2nd session-]
Amendment text [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [103rd-]
Bill consideration / debate [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [103rd-]
By date and section: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [most recent first; current as of yesterday] [Search Tips item]
Conference reports printed in the Congressional Record [via Congressional Record Lists tab]
Congressional Record-Advanced search [search text of the Record] [101st-]
Congressional Record-Quick search [search text of the Record] [101st-]
Congressional Record-Help files. See: Help - Congressional Record
Congressional Record- How to pick a search page [when to use Quick vs. Advanced vs. Index, when to use other files]
Congressional Record Index [browse or search; prefer browsing] [103rd Congress, 2nd session-]
Congressional Record Index-Help files. See: Help - Congressional Record Index
Congressional Record- Lists page
Daily Digest. See: Daily Digest
Dates. See: Dates
History of bills and resolutions. See: History of bills and resolutions
Member statements / remarks. See: Members
Most recent issue: LIS browse list + GPO Access search page [current as of yesterday; GPO available 1st] [Search Tips item]
Page number searching [Search Tips item]
Résumé of Congressional Activity. See: Résumé of Congressional Activity
Session: Restricting searches by session [Search Tips item]
See also: Amendments, Bills, Committees, Congress, House, Laws, Members, Schedules, Senate, Votes.

Congressional Research Service. See: CRS
Connectors ...
  Boolean connectors and proximity operators for searching LIS
  Order of processing of connectors

Consideration of legislation / debate. See: Amendments to bills, resolutions, Bills and resolutions.
Consolidated Appropriations Act. See: Appropriations
Constituents: In the Mailbag [resources for assisting constituents, compiled by CRS]
Constitution ...
  Constitution [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
  Constitution Annotated [Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation] [from CRS]
  Constitution of the United States [from the THOMAS Historical Documents collection]
See also: Amendments to the Constitution.

Contact LIS directly: lismail@crs.loc.gov
Contacts for LIS [other locations for LIS assistance]

Continuing appropriations legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Cookies: Privacy & security notices [for the Legislative Information System]

Cosponsors. See: Sponsors and cosponsors

Cost estimates of legislation (from CBO). See: CBO (Congressional Budget Office)

Courts. See: Judicial, State and local, Supreme Court.

CQ (Congressional Quarterly) ...

  Bills to watch [from CQ via Capitol Spotlight]

  Capitol Spotlight [weekly online newsletter from C-SPAN and CQ]

  Congressional Quarterly - cq.com [Senate access only]

  CQ American Congressional Dictionary [definitions of Cong practices + procedures] [Search Tips item]

  CQ custom billtrack report [related measures, speeches, scheduled actions...] [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; 106th-]

  Markup summaries with votes in committee [at CQ site; search by bill, comm/subcomm, keyword, date; 104th-; Sen access only]

  Markup summaries with votes in committee [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; 104th-]

CRS (Congressional Research Service) ...

  Appropriations status chart and CRS products on appropriations. See: Appropriations

  Congressional liaison offices of selected federal agencies [list compiled by CRS] [PDF format]

  Constitution Annotated [Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation]

  Contact expert at CRS [search for CRS expert by name and by some subjects]

  CRS guides to Congressional processes [legislative, budget, oversight, and other processes]

  Events [seminars, institutes, TV schedule, Webcasts, multimedia library]

  Floor agenda: CRS products [formerly Legislative Alert]

  Home page

  In the Mailbag [resources for assisting constituents on frequently asked topics]

  Legislative reference sources [sources on Members, committees, leadership, Congressional facts and history]

  Members of Congress: Changes and departures. See: Members

  Place request with CRS [form to request analysis, information, or consultation with a CRS expert]

  Press/media links [current news, radio + TV stations, transcripts + tapes]

  Products [on current legislative issues], search [for all CRS products], and new products [most recent 20-40 products]

  Products: Bill Summary & Status links to CRS products [Search Tips item]

  Products: Building direct links to CRS products

  Reference desk [basic reference sources, resources for assisting constituents and writing speeches]

  Services [CRS and Library of Congress services for Congress]

  Subject terms to find legislation. See: Subject term searching

  Summaries of legislation [search and display in Bill Summary & Status]

  See also: Library of Congress

CSPAN. See: C-SPAN

Currency. See: Dates

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

... Amendments Bills Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...

Daily Digest (Congressional Record) ...

  By date: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [most recent first; current as of yesterday] [Search Tips item]

  Conference reports: Find by searching the Cong Record Daily Digest [Search Tips item]

  Current Daily Digest and PDF version [GPO Access; current as of yesterday]

  Most recent issue: LIS and GPO Access / PDF version [current as of yesterday; GPO available first] [Search Tips item]

  See also: Congressional Record

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Daily Report for Executives [BNA] [Senate FrontPage: Senate access only]

Dates ...
  [or jump past the lengthy Dates listings]

Amendment date of introduction [search and display in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Appropriations legislation. See: Appropriations [FY1999-]
Bill date of introduction [search and display in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Bill Summary & Status [from 93rd; current as of yesterday; summaries and indexing added later]
Bill Text [from 101st; current as of a few days ago; sometimes longer depending on bill size + GPO workload]
Bill text-date received at LC [roughly equivalent to printing date; search in Legislation Full Text] [Help]

Calendars. See: Calendars

Committee Reports [from 104th; current as of about a week ago; sometimes longer depending on report size + GPO workload]
Committee report-date available at LC [roughly equivalent to printing date; search in Committee Reports] [Help]
Congressional Record [from 101st; current as of yesterday]
Congressional Record by date and section: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [current as of yesterday] [Search Tips item]
Congressional Record date search [search and display in Congressional Record] [Help]
Congressional Record Index [from 103rd Congress-2nd session; updated every 2 weeks]
Cosponsor date searching [search in Words box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Date of all actions on bills and amendments [from 101st; current as of yesterday] [Help]
Major actions on bills and amendments [from 101st; current as of yesterday] [Help]
Private Laws [from 96th; current as of yesterday]
Public Laws [from 93rd; current as of yesterday]
Résumé of Congressional Activity. See: Résumé of Congressional Activity [91st-]
Sessions of Congress. See: Sessions of Congress
See also: History.

Dates-Future. See: Schedules

Dates-Today ...
  [or jump past the lengthy Dates listings]

Congressional schedules. See: Schedules
CRS: New products [most recent 20 or 40 products]
Federal Register: Today's table of contents/index [GPO Access; work days: Monday-Friday]
GAO: Today's reports
House current floor proceedings [floor now]
House votes: Today, Archive and Search [House access only]
Senate closed caption [floor now; Senate access only]
Senate pending and proposed amendments [in Senate Amendment Tracking System]
Senate votes: Today, This week, Archive [101st-]
White House latest news [remarks, statements, executive orders ... by date]

Dates-Yesterday (most recent date Congress in session) ...
  [or jump past the lengthy Dates listings]

Bills and amendments introduced yesterday [search yesterday's date in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Bills and amendments with action yesterday [Help]
Bills and amendments introduced or with action yesterday [on LIS home page, click on "Action Yesterday" link in Bills section]
Congressional Record current Daily Digest and PDF version [current as of yesterday; GPO Access]
Congressional Record by date and section [most recent first; current as of yesterday] [Search Tips item]
Latest major actions on bills and amendments [current as of yesterday]

Days-in-session calendars for House and Senate. See: Calendars

DC. See: District of Columbia
Debate / consideration of legislation. See: Amendments to bills, resolutions, Bills and resolutions.
Declaration of Independence [from the THOMAS Historical Documents collection]
Definitions: CQ American Congressional Dictionary [definitions of Cong practices + procedures] [Search Tips item]
Deschler's Precedents of the House [GPO Access]
Designating buildings, facilities, structures - legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Dictionary: CQ American Congressional Dictionary [definitions of Cong practices + procedures] [Search Tips item]
Disagreed to: Conference reports disagreed to. See: Conference
Disapproval bills. See: Line item vetoes

Discharge ...

Bills discharged from a specific committee [Committee/Subcommittee search in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Bills discharged from (any) House committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Bills discharged from (any) Senate committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Bills not reported by or discharged from (any) committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Bills reported to House or committee discharged [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills reported to Senate or committee discharged [in Major Action search box] [Help]

House bills not reported by or discharged from (any) committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]

House discharge petitions [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note] [104th-] [and Search Tips item]
House discharge petitions: 107, 106 and 105 [text + signatures; via the Clerk of the House]
Senate bills not reported by or discharged from (any) committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]

See also: Committees, Originated in committee, Referred to committee, Reported by committee.

District of Columbia - federal legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Documents: Committee documents. See: Committees

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... Amendments Bill Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...

Education: Legislation authorizing scholarships, fellowships [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Email ...

Congressional email directory [from the University of Michigan]

Email assistance for LIS: lismail@crs.loc.gov

Legislative information and opinion via email [Search Tips item]

Emergency supplemental appropriations legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Enactment of a Law [by the Senate Parliamentarian, from the CRS Web site]

Ethics ...

House ethics manual and other documents from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

Senate ethics manual [PDF format] and other documents from the Select Committee on Ethics

Executive ...

Congressional liaison offices of selected federal agencies [list compiled by CRS] [PDF format]

Executive branch [LIS Agencies tab]

Executive branch home pages [from FirstGov]

Executive branch search [from FirstGov]

Executive calendar. See: Calendars

Executive communications to the House [search catalog] [100th-] [Help]

Executive communications to the Senate [search catalog] [96th-] [Help]

See also: Federal government, Laws, President, White House.

Executive orders ...

Codification of Presidential proclamations and executive orders [National Archives] [1945-1989]

List [National Archives-Executive orders disposition tables] [1953 Eisenhower - ]

Presidential documents on National Archives (NARA) Web sites

Presidential executive orders on the Web [Search Tips item]

White House latest news [remarks, statements, executive orders ... by date]
Failed of passage. See: Passed/failed of passage
FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions [about the Legislative Information System]
Feature of the Week. See: Search Tips for LIS
Federal Document Clearing House (FDCH) [transcripts of major Congressional hearings for sale]
Federal employees ...
  Legislation on federal employee pay and benefits [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
  Legislation on federal employee retirement [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
  Legislation on government employees [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Federal government ...
  CRS guides to Congressional processes [legislative, budget, oversight, and other processes]
  Federal court locator [by state; from the Villanova University School of Law]
  Federal government [LIS Agencies tab]
  Federal judiciary courts [by circuit]
  Federal portals [LIS Agencies tab]
  Federal Web locator [from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Center for Information Law and Policy]
  FedStats [statistics produced by federal agencies]
  FirstGov [online federal government resources; search or browse]
See also: Executive, Judicial.
Federal News Service (FNS) [transcripts of major Congressional hearings for sale]
Federal Register ...
  Federal Register search [National Archives/GPO Access]
  Federal Register: Today's table of contents/index [GPO Access; work days: Monday-Friday]
See also: Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
Federalist Papers [from the THOMAS Historical Documents collection]
FedNet ...
  Home page [with Congressional floor & committee schedule + audio & video coverage of Congress]
  Live audio and video of floor and committee proceedings [Search Tips item]
Feedback: lismail@crs.loc.gov
Fellowships: Legislation authorizing scholarships, fellowships [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Field specifiers ...
  Field selection drop-down menu for searching Bill Summary & Status [Search Tips item]
  Field specifiers in word/phrase box when searching Bill Summary & Status [Search Tips item]
List of field specifiers for searching Bill Summary & Status
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 6: Using field specifiers (title, latest summary, ...) [Search Tips item]
FindLaw [case law, forms, find a lawyer ...]
FirstGov ...
  Home page [online federal government resources; search or browse]
  Executive branch home pages [from FirstGov]
  Executive branch search [from FirstGov]
Floor ...
  Bills with floor action. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
  Bills with floor, floor prep, post-committee actions [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Bills with House floor actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
  Bills with House preparation for floor [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
  Bills with Senate floor actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
  Bills with Senate preparation for floor [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
  Debate / consideration of legislation on the floor. See: Amendments to bills, resolutions, Bills and resolutions.

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Floor agenda: CRS products [formerly Legislative Alert]
House bills with floor action in the House. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
House bills with floor action in the Senate. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Live audio and video of floor and committee proceedings [Search Tips item]
Now: House current floor proceedings [floor now]
Now: Senate closed caption [floor now; Senate access only]
Rules and precedents. See: Rules, precedents and procedures
Schedules. See: Schedules
Senate bills with floor action in the House. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Senate bills with floor action in the Senate. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
See also: Committees, Conference, Passed/failed of passage.

Foreign. See: International

Frequently Asked Questions [about the Legislative Information System]
FrontPage [Senate FrontPage: Senate access only]
Future. See: Schedules

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Congressional Record: Select Daily Digest by date ["Committee Meetings" held and scheduled]
Federal Document Clearing House (FDCH) [transcripts of major Congressional hearings for sale]
Federal News Service (FNS) [transcripts of major Congressional hearings for sale]
House committee + subcommittee home pages [some provide the text of selected hearings]
Live audio and video of floor and committee proceedings [Search Tips item]
Nexis [provides transcripts of major Congressional hearings, primarily those compiled by FDCH + FNS - Senate access only]
Schedules. See: Schedules
Senate committee + subcommittee home pages [some provide the text of selected hearings]
Searchable text of selected committee + subcommittee hearings: Congressional hearings [GPO Access] [105th-]
Text of House committee + subcommittee hearings: Selected publications [GPO Access]
Text of House committee + subcommittee hearings: Selected transcripts [GPO Access]
Text of Senate committee + subcommittee hearings: Selected publications [GPO Access]
See also: Committees, Markups.

Help pages ...
See: Help - Bill Summary & Status, Bill Summary & Status-Displays, Bill Text, Committee Reports, Cong Record + Cong Record Index.

Help - Bill Summary & Status ... [or jump past the lengthy Help listings]
About the Bill Summary & Status Quick, Advanced and Multi-Congress search pages
Bill / amendment / Public Law numbers
Browsing lists of bills that meet certain criteria
Committee/subcommittee searching
Connectors: Boolean connectors and proximity operators
Connectors: Order of processing of connectors
Date of all actions on bills and amendments
Field specifiers [Search Tips] [Search Tips on field selection drop-down menu]
Major actions
Member name searches in the Multi-Congress file
Sorting search results
Sponsor/cosponsor searching
Status searching in the word/phrase box
Subject terms (CRS index terms)
Topics [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches] and List of topics with scope notes
Word/phrase searching

Help - Bill Summary & Status-Displays ... [or jump past the lengthy Help listings]
About the amendments display
About the committees display
About the cosponsors display
About digests (the summary display)
About the major actions display
About the related bill details display
About the status displays
About the subjects display (CRS index terms)
About the titles display

Help - Bill Text ... [or jump past the lengthy Help listings]
About the Full Bill Text search page
Bill number
Bill type
Bill version
Connectors: Boolean connectors and proximity operators
Connectors: Order of processing of connectors
Date received at the Library of Congress

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Restricting search by action or chamber
Sorting search results
Word/phrase searching

Help - Committee Reports ... [or jump past the lengthy Help listings]
About the Committee Reports search page
Bill number
Committee searching
Connectors: Boolean connectors and proximity operators
Connectors: Order of processing of connectors
Date available at the Library of Congress
Report number
Report type
Word/phrase searching

Help - Congressional Record ... [or jump past the lengthy Help listings]
About the Congressional Record search pages
Browsing lists of Congressional Record information
Connectors: Boolean connectors and proximity operators
Connectors: Order of processing of connectors
Date searching
Member name searching
Section of the Record
Sorting search results
Word/phrase searching (words from full text of the Congressional Record)

Help - Congressional Record Index ...
When should I use the Congressional Record Index search pages?

Help - House Executive Communications ...
About the House Executive Communications Search Page

Help - Legislative process ...
Help with the legislative process

Help - LIS ...
About the Legislative Information System [Frequently Asked Questions]
Help with LIS

Help - Lists tabs ...
Bills lists page [Help] , Committee publications lists page [Help] , Congressional Record lists page [Help]

Help - Nominations ...
About the Nominations Search Page

Help - Senate Executive Communications ...
About the Senate Executive Communications Search Page

Help - Treaties ...
About the Treaties Search Page

Hill [The Hill]

History ...
Biographical Directory of the United States Congress [1774-]
Center for Legislative Archives [National Archives repository of Congressional records]
Century of lawmaking [Congressional documents and debates 1774-1873; from the Library of Congress American Memory project]
Congressional history [1789-present; from the Clerk of the House]
Search history: Show search query analysis in LIS [Search Tips item]
Résumé of Congressional Activity. See: Résumé of Congressional Activity
Sessions of Congress. See: Sessions of Congress
THOMAS Historical documents collection [Continental Congress, Constitutional Convention ...]
See also: Dates.

History of bills and resolutions ...
Browse lists by bill type [description + link to GPO Access; current Congress; current as of day after Cong Record published]
Search page [GPO Access] [1983-]

Holidays legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Hot bills list [Senate Library list of key House + Senate legislation] [Search Tips item]
HouseNet [House intranet; House access only]

House of Representatives ...
A collection of House resources [LIS House tab]
Calendars. See: Calendars
CAO [Chief Administrative Officer; House access only]
Clerk of the House [Office of the Clerk] [LIS Search Tips item describing Clerk's Web site]
Commercial sources [House access only; House and Senate access; LIS Media tab]
Committee of the Whole. See: Other actions on ... amendments [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Current floor proceedings [floor now]
Ethics. See: Ethics
Executive communications to the House [search catalog] [100th-] [Help]

Home page
HouseNet [House intranet; House access only]
House News Stand and Member office login + Committee office login [House access only]
Leadership. See: Leadership
Media gallery [radio-TV]
Members. See: Members
Rules and precedents. See: Rules, precedents and procedures
Schedules. See: Schedules
Suspension of rules in House-Bills considered. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]

See also: Amendments, Bills, Committees, Congress, Cong Record, Laws, Senate, Votes.

How Our Laws Are Made [House Parliamentarian]

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J-K | L | M | N | O | P-Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X-Z
... Amendments Bills Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...

Impeachment of President Clinton. See: Topics - Impeachment ...
In the Mailbag [resources for assisting constituents, compiled by CRS]
Incorporated bills. See: Bills and resolutions
Index terms to find legislation. See: Subject term searching
Interest groups. See: Think tanks and advocacy groups
International ...
International governmental organizations [from Northwestern University Library]
Worldwide governments [from Gunnar Anzinger at gksoft.com]
See also: Treaties.

Introduced by request-Bills introduced by request. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Introductory remarks by Members on legislation [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [103rd-]

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J-K | L | M | N | O | P-Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X-Z
... Amendments Bills Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...


http://www.congress.gov/help.html

2/4/03
Joint resolutions. See: Bills and resolutions
Joint sessions of Congress. See: Sessions of Congress
Judicial ...

Federal court locator [by state; from the Villanova University School of Law]
Federal judiciary courts [by circuit]
Judicial branch [LIS Agencies tab]
See also: Federal government, Supreme Court.

LIS - Can't Find It?
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... Amendments Bills Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...

Latest. See: Dates-Today, Dates-Yesterday
Laws ...

Bills with floor action did not become law. See: Other Actions - Bills / House / Senate [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Century of lawmaking [Congressional documents and debates 1774-1873; from the Library of Congress American Memory project]
Enactment of a Law [by the Senate Parliamentarian, from the CRS Web site]
FindLaw [case law, forms, find a lawyer ...]
How Our Laws Are Made [House Parliamentarian]
Law Library of Congress [House and Senate access only]
Private laws in order by bill number [101st-] [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Private laws in order by Private Law number [Browse Private Laws] [96th-]
Public laws in order by bill number [in Major Action search box] [Help] [93rd-]
Public laws in order by Public Law number [Browse Public Laws] [93rd-]
Public laws enacted over veto [in Major Action search box] [Help] [93rd-]
Public laws unsigned by President [in Major Action search box] [Help] [93rd-]
Public laws via LIS Home tab: How to pick a search page [what's available; when to use other files]
Public laws: Current session of Congress [this National Archives list sometimes has the most current Public Law numbers]
Search by Public Law number [search and display in Bill Summary & Status]
Uniform laws [uniform state laws]
U.S. Code [from the House: Office of the Law Revision Counsel]
U.S. Code [from Cornell University: Legal Information Institute]
See also: Executive, Line item vetoes, President, Vetoes, White House.

Leadership ...

House leadership [Speaker of the House, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Majority Whip, Democratic Whip ...]
Schedules. See: Schedules
Senate bills sponsored/cosponsored by leadership. See: Topics [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Senate leadership [Majority Leader, Democratic Leader, Assistant Majority Leader-Majority Whip, Democratic Whip ...]
See also: House, Members, Senate.

Legal. See: Laws
Legislative ...

About the Legislative Information System [Frequently Asked Questions]
Center for Legislative Archives [National Archives repository of Congressional records]
CRS guides to Congressional processes [legislative, budget, oversight, and other processes]
Legislative alert: CRS products. See: Floor agenda: CRS products
Legislative information and opinion via email [Search Tips item]
Legislative histories [guide to producing legislative histories; from the University of Michigan]
Legislative Indexing Vocabulary (LIV). See: Subject term searching
Legislative process: Help with the legislative process
Legislative reference sources on the Internet [from CRS]

Office of the Legislative Counsel [House]
LEXIS-NEXIS. [Senate access only]
Library of Congress (LOC) ...
  Borrow Library books
  Home page and its Alphabetical index
  Law Library of Congress [House and Senate access only]
  Selected Library services available to Members and committees of Congress
  See also: CRS (Congressional Research Service), THOMAS.
Line item vetoes (Presidential cancellations) (105th only) ...
  Bills with line item veto by President [browse list and instructions for use]
  Bills with line item veto by President [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Bills with subsequent disapproval bill in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Bills with subsequent disapproval bill in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Legislation about line item veto authority for the President [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
  Line item veto notices [National Archives]
  See also: Laws, President, Vetoes.
Links ...
  Building direct links to CRS products
  Building direct links to LIS documents
  Building direct links to THOMAS documents [and accompanying Search Tip plus Search Tip on updating links]
LIS ...
  About the Legislative Information System [Frequently Asked Questions]
  LIS Home Page
Lists. See: Browse lists in LIS files
LIV (Legislative Indexing Vocabulary). See: Subject term searching
Lobbyists. See: Think tanks and advocacy groups
LOC. See: Library of Congress
Local government. See: State and local

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... Amendments | Bills | Committees | Congress | Cong Record | Floor | House | Laws | Leadership | Members | Schedules | Senate | Votes ...

Mailbag: In the Mailbag [resources for assisting constituents, compiled by CRS]
Major actions on bills (and amendments) ... [or jump past the lengthy Major Action listings]
Search and display major actions on bills in Bill Summary & Status from the 101st Congress to the present. Major action links below go to search box; scroll down to select desired major action by name. For earlier Congresses, use Stage in Legislative Process actions, some of which may have different wording.
See also: Latest major actions on bills and amendments. Other actions on bills and amendments.

- - - - - - - - - -
01000. Introduced/originated in House [Help] [101st-]
02000. Referred to House committee [Help] [101st-]
03000. Referred to House subcommittee [Help] [101st-]
04000. House committee/subcommittee actions [Help] [101st-]
04100. House committee/subcommittee hearings [Help] [101st-]
04200. House committee/subcommittee markups [Help] [101st-]
05000. Reported to House / Committee discharged [Help] [101st-]
06000. House preparation for floor [Help] [101st-]
07000. House floor actions [Help] [101st-]
08000. Passed/agreed to in House [Help]
09000. Failed of passage/not agreed to in House [Help]

http://www.congress.gov/help.html

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10000. Introduced/originated in Senate [Help] [101st-]
11000. Referred to Senate committee [Help] [101st-]
12000. Referred to Senate subcommittee [Help] [101st-]
13000. Senate committee/subcommittee actions [Help] [101st-]
13100. Senate committee/subcommittee hearings [Help] [101st-]
13200. Senate committee/subcommittee markups [Help] [101st-]
14000. Reported to Senate / Committee discharged [Help] [101st-]
14900. Senate committee report filed after reporting [Help] [101st-]
15000. Senate preparation for floor [Help] [101st-]
16000. Senate floor actions [Help] [101st-]
17000. Passed/agreed to in Senate [Help]
18000. Failed of passage/not agreed to in Senate [Help]

19000. Resolving differences / Conference -- House actions [Help] [101st-]
20000. Resolving differences / Conference -- Senate actions [Help] [101st-]
20800. Conference committee actions [Help] [101st-]
20900. Conference report filed [Help]
21000. Conference report agreed to in House [Help]
22000. Conference report disagreed to in House [Help]
23000. Conference report agreed to in Senate [Help]
24000. Conference report disagreed to in Senate [Help]

25000. Roll call votes on measures in House [Help] [101st-]
26000. Roll call votes on measures in Senate [Help] [101st-]

27000. Cleared for White House [Help] [101st-]
28000. Presented to President [Help]
29000. Signed by President [Help] [101st-]
29100. Sent to Archivist unsigned by President [Help] [101st-]
30000. Pocket vetoed by President [Help]
31000. Vetoed by President [Help]

32000. Passed House over veto [Help]
33000. Failed of passage in House over veto [Help]
34000. Passed Senate over veto [Help]
35000. Failed of passage in Senate over veto [Help]

36000. PUBLIC LAW (ALL PUBLIC LAWS) [Help]
37000. Public Law signed by President [Help]
38000. Public Law unsigned by President [Help]
39000. Public Law enacted over veto [Help]

41000. PRIVATE LAW (ALL PRIVATE LAWS) [Help] [101st-]
42000. Private Law signed by President [Help]

46000. Line item veto by President [Help] [105th]
47000. Disapproval bill in House [Help] [105th]
48000. Disapproval bill in Senate [Help] [105th]

99000. FLOOR, FLOOR PREP, POST COMMITTEE ACTIONS (HOUSE OR SENATE) [Help]
Major actions on (bills and) amendments ... [or jump past the lengthy Major Action listings]
Search and display major actions on amendments in Bill Summary & Status from the 101st Congress to the present. Major action links below go to search box; scroll down to select desired major action by name.
See also: Latest major actions on bills and amendments.

71000. House amendment offered [Help] [101st-]
72000. House amendment agreed to [Help] [101st-]
73000. House amendment not agreed to [Help] [101st-]
74000. Other House amendment actions [Help] [101st-]
75000. Roll call votes on amendments in House [Help] [101st-]

91000. Senate amendment submitted [Help] [101st-]
92000. Senate amendment referred to committee [Help] [101st-]
93000. Senate amendment proposed (on the floor) [Help] [101st-]
94000. Senate amendment agreed to [Help] [101st-]
95000. Senate amendment not agreed to [Help] [101st-]
96000. Other Senate amendment actions [Help] [101st-]
97000. Roll call votes on amendments in Senate [Help] [101st-]

Majority leader. See: Leadership
Majority whip. See: Leadership
Map: Site map [of the Legislative Information System]
Markups (Committee markups include votes in committee) ...
About specific bills [Bill Summary & Status displays include markup date, committee and summary; summary available 2000-]
Bills with House committee/subcommittee markups [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with Senate committee/subcommittee markups [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Cong Quarterly summaries of markups/votes [at CQ site; search by bill, comm/subcomm, keyword, date; 104th-; Sen access only]
Cong Quarterly summaries of markups/votes [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; 104th-]
Congressional Record: Select Daily Digest by date ["Committee Meetings" held and scheduled]
House committee + subcommittee home pages [some provide the text of selected markups]
National Journal summaries of markups/votes [at NJ site; search by bill no, comm, subcomm, keyword, date; 09-1999 ]
National Journal summaries of markups/votes [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; 2000-] [Search Tips item]
Schedules. See: Schedules
Senate committee + subcommittee home pages [some provide the text of selected markups]
See also: Committees, Hearings.
Medals: Legislation on Congressional Medals of Honor [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Media ...
CRS press/media links [current news, radio + TV stations, transcripts + tapes]
Media [news, commercial sources, media coverage of Congress; LIS Media tab]
Media galleries: House [radio-TV] and Senate [print, periodical, photographers, radio-TV]
See also: News, Video.
Members of Congress ...
A directory of House Members [current Congress] and Senate Members [current Congress]
Biographical Directory of the United States Congress [1774-]
Changes in the membership of Congress: 108 and 107 [Member party switches ..., current party totals, compiled by CRS]
Congressional departures: 108 and 107 [Member retirements, deaths, resignations ..., compiled by CRS]
Congressional Directory [official printed directory from GPO Access]
Congressional Pictorial Directory [GPO Access]
Email directory [from the University of Michigan]
Home pages: House and Senate
Individual Member and committee listing [customized for your office; requires password; Senate access only]
List by committee with Member assignments: House [coming soon] and Senate
List by Member with committee assignments: House House [coming soon] and Senate
List by Member with state/district/party information: House and Senate
List by party: House [not available on House site] and Senate
List by state: House and Senate

Member introductory remarks on legislation [via links to Congressional Record in Bill Summary & Status displays] [103rd-]
Member name searches in the Congressional Record file [Help including why searches may retrieve more than desired]
Member statements [browse Cong Record Index by Member name + then peruse three sections: Remarks, Statements, + Tributes]
Sponsors. See: Sponsors and cosponsors

Telephone directories for Members: House [unlimited access] and Senate [Senate access only]
See also: Amendments, Bills, Committees, Congress, Cong Record, House, Leadership, Schedules, Senate, Votes.

Memorials: Legislation authorizing monuments, memorials [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Minority leader. See: Leadership
Minority whip. See: Leadership
Monuments: Legislation authorizing monuments, memorials [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Multiple committee referral count searching [search in Word/Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]

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

... Amendments Bills Committees Congress Cong Record Floor House Laws Leadership Members Schedules Senate Votes ...

Names: Legislation designating buildings, facilities, structures [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) ...
Center for Legislative Archives [National Archives repository of Congressional records]

Home page

Line item veto notices [National Archives]

Presidential documents on National Archives (NARA) Web sites

Public laws: Current session of Congress [this National Archives list sometimes has the most current Public Law numbers]

NASCIO State Search [state government Web sites by function; NASCIO was formerly NASIRE]

National Archives and Records Administration. See: NARA

National Journal ...

Home page

Markup summaries with votes in committee [at NJ site; search by bill no, comm, subcomm, keyword, date; 09-1999 - ]
Markup summaries with votes in committee [via links in Bill Summary & Status displays; 2000-] [Search Tips item]

Schedule [Daybook: The Hill Today and future; floor and committee]

Navigation in browsers. See: Search Tips

News ...

CNN: altpolitics.com [political news from CNN / Time]
CRS press/media links [current news, radio + TV stations, transcripts + tapes]

Hill [The Hill]

Media galleries: House [radio-TV] and Senate [print, periodical, photographers, radio-TV]

News [news, commercial sources, media coverage of Congress; LIS Media tab]

News on the Web [House links to current news, newspapers, radio + TV stations; House access only]

Newswires: Access to newswires (NewsEdge) [Search Tips item]

Roll Call

Washington Post: OnPolitics [political news from the Washington Post]

Washington Times: Nation/Politics section [political news from the Washington Times]

See also: BNA Daily Report for Executives, CQ, LEXIS-NEXIS, National Journal, ProQuest Direct, Westlaw.

NewsEdge Insight (Associated Press, Reuters ...)

Access to newswires (NewsEdge) [Search Tips item]
NEXIS. See: LEXIS-NEXIS
NGO. See: Nongovernmental
Nominations: Presidential nominations [search catalog] [97th-] [Help and Search Tips item].
Nongovernmental organizations [NGO] [from Paul Ventura at sover.net]
Not agreed to ...

Amendments not agreed to. See: Major actions on (bills and) amendments
Amendments not agreed to in Committee of the Whole. See: Other actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Amendments between the houses after initial passage. See: Resolving differences
Bills failed of passage and resolutions not agreed to. See: Passed
Conference reports disagreed to. See: Conference
Measures failed of passage over veto. See: Vetoes

Number. See: Amendments to bills ... Number, Bills and resolutions ... Number.

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... Amendments  Bills  Committees  Congress  Cong Record  Floor  House  Laws  Leadership  Members  Schedules  Senate  Votes  ...

Office of the Clerk of the House. See: House of Representatives
Omnibus Appropriations Bill. See: Appropriations
OnPolitics [political news from the Washington Post]
Originated in committee ...

Bills originated in a specific committee [Committee/Subcommittee search in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
See also: Discharge, Committees, Referred to committee, Reported by committee.

Other actions on bills (and amendments) ...

[or jump past the lengthy Other Action listings]

Search and display "other actions" on bills in Bill Summary & Status from the 101st Congress to the present. Other Actions are pre-defined searches which include Major Action searches and more. The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
See also: Major actions on bills and amendments.

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The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ACTIONS [101st-]
Bills introduced by request [101st-]
Bills not reported by or discharged from any committee [101st-]
Bills with floor action [101st-]
-- Bills with floor action which did not become law [101st-]
Bills passed both House and Senate [101st-]
Bills which went to conference as defined by the House and Senate calendars [101st-]
-- Bills in conference as defined by House and Senate calendars [101st-]
-- Bills for which a conference report was agreed to in both chambers [101st-]

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The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

INTRODUCED/ORIGINATED IN HOUSE [Help] [101st-]
House bills with 218 or more cosponsors [101st-]
Referred to House committee [Help] [101st-]
Referred to House subcommittee [Help] [101st-]
House committee/subcommittee actions [Help] [101st-]
-- House committee/subcommittee hearings [Help] [101st-]
-- House committee/subcommittee markups [Help] [101st-]
House discharge petitions [104th-]
Bills not reported by or discharged from any committee [101st-]
--- House bills not reported by or discharged from any committee [101st-]
Reported to House / Committee discharged [ Help] [101st-]
--- Bills reported by House committees [101st-]
--- Bills discharged from House committees [101st-]
House preparation for floor [ Help] [101st-]
--- Bills which may be eligible for House floor consideration [108th]

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The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page. Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTIONS [ Help] [101st-]
Bills with floor action [101st-]
--- House bills with floor action in the House [101st-]
--- Senate bills with floor action in the House [101st-]
Bills with floor action which did not become law [101st-]
--- House bills with floor action which did not become law [101st-]
Bills considered under suspension of rules in House [101st-]
--- Bills considered under suspension of rules in House before initial passage [101st-]
--- --- Bills considered under suspension of rules in House before initial passage, passed [101st-]
--- --- Bills considered under suspension of rules in House before initial passage, failed [101st-]
--- --- Bills considered under suspension of rules in House failed, subsequently passed [101st-]
--- --- Bills considered under suspension of rules in House before initial passage, other [101st-]

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The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page. Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

PASSED/AGREED TO IN HOUSE [ Help] [101st-]
Bills considered under suspension of rules in House before initial passage, passed [101st-]
Bills considered under suspension of rules in House failed, subsequently passed [101st-]
Bills passed House with no Senate floor action [101st-]
Bills passed House not passed Senate [101st-]
Bills passed House and passed Senate [101st-]

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The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page. Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

FAILED OF PASSAGE/NOT AGREED TO IN HOUSE [ Help] [101st-]
Bills considered under suspension of rules in House before initial passage, failed [101st-]
Bills considered under suspensions of rules in House failed, subsequently passed [101st-]

[or jump past the lengthy Other Action listings]

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The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page. Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

INTRODUCED/ORIGINATED IN SENATE [ Help] [101st-]
Senate bills sponsored and cosponsored by leadership [101st-]
Senate bills with 60 or more cosponsors [101st-]
Referred to Senate committee [ Help] [101st-]
Referred to Senate subcommittee [ Help] [101st-]
Senate committee/subcommittee actions [ Help] [101st-]
--- Senate committee/subcommittee hearings [ Help] [101st-]
--- Senate committee/subcommittee markups [ Help] [101st-]
Bills not reported by or discharged from any committee [101st-]
--- Senate bills not reported by or discharged from any committee [101st-]
Reported to Senate / Committee discharged [ Help] [101st-]
-- Bills reported by Senate committees [101st-
-- Bills discharged from Senate committees [101st-
Senate committee report filed after reporting [Help] [101st-
Senate preparation for floor [Help] [101st-
-- Bills which may be eligible for Senate floor consideration [108th]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
SENATE FLOOR ACTIONS [Help] [101st-
Bills with floor action [101st-
-- House bills with floor action in the Senate [101st-
-- Senate bills with floor action in the Senate [101st-
Bills with floor action which did not become law [101st-
-- Senate bills with floor action which did not become law [101st-

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
PASSED/AGREED TO IN SENATE [Help] [101st-
Bills passed Senate with no House floor action [101st-
Bills passed Senate not passed House [101st-
Bills passed Senate and passed House [101st-

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
FAILED OF PASSAGE/NOT AGREED TO IN SENATE [Help] [101st-

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
RESOLVING DIFFERENCES / CONFERENCE -- HOUSE ACTIONS [Help] [101st-
Bills considered under suspension of rules in House resolving differences/conference [101st-
Bills for which a conference was requested by House [101st-
Bills which had conferees appointed by House [101st-

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
RESOLVING DIFFERENCES / CONFERENCE -- SENATE ACTIONS [Help] [101st-
Bills for which a conference was requested by Senate [101st-
Bills which had conferees appointed by Senate [101st-

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
BILLS WHICH WENT TO CONFERENCE as defined by the House and Senate calendars [101st-
Bills in conference as defined by House and Senate calendars [101st-
Bills for which a conference was requested by either chamber [101st-
-- Bills for which a conference was requested by House [101st-
-- Bills for which a conference was requested by Senate [101st-
Bills which had conferees appointed by either chamber [101st-
-- Bills which had conferees appointed by House [101st-
-- Bills which had conferees appointed by Senate [101st-
Bills which had conferees appointed by both chambers [101st-

Conference committee actions [Help] [101st-
-- Conference held [101st-]
The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

Conference report filed [Help] [101st-]
Conference report agreed to in House and in Senate [101st-]
-- Conference report agreed to in House [Help] [101st-]
-- Conference report agreed to in Senate [Help] [101st-]
Conference report disagreed to in House and in Senate [101st-]
-- Conference report disagreed to in House [Help] [101st-]
-- Conference report disagreed to in Senate [Help] [101st-]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

ROLL CALL VOTES ON MEASURES IN HOUSE OR SENATE [101st-]
Roll call votes on measures in House [Help] [101st-]
Roll call votes on measures in Senate [Help] [101st-]

[or jump past the lengthy Other Action listings]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

BILLs WHICH MAY BE READY TO CLEAR FOR WHITE HOUSE [101st-]
Cleared for White House [Help] [101st-]
-- Bills cleared for White House when latest major action [101st-]
Presented to President [Help] [101st-]
-- Bills presented to the President when latest major action [101st-]

Signed by President [Help] [101st-]
Sent to Archivist unsigned by President [Help] [101st-]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

VETOES AND POCKET VETOES [101st-]
Pocket vetoed by President [Help] [101st-]
Vetoed by President [Help] [101st-]

Passed House and Senate over veto [101st-]
-- Passed House over veto [Help] [101st-]
-- Passed Senate over veto [Help] [101st-]
Failed of passage in House and Senate over veto [101st-]
-- Failed of passage in House over veto [Help] [101st-]
-- Failed of passage in Senate over veto [Help] [101st-]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

PUBLIC LAW (ALL PUBLIC LAWS) [Help] [101st-]
Public Law signed by President [Help] [101st-]
Public Law unsigned by President [Help] [101st-]
Public Law enacted over veto [Help] [101st-]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.

PRIVATE LAW (ALL PRIVATE LAWS) [Help] [101st-]
Private Law signed by President [Help] [101st-]
Line item veto by President [Help] [105th]
Disapproval bill in House [Help] [105th]
Disapproval bill in Senate [Help] [105th]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
FLOOR, FLOOR PREP, POST COMMITTEE ACTIONS (HOUSE OR SENATE) [Help] [101st-]
Floor, floor prep, post-committee actions in House [101st-]
Floor, floor prep, post-committee actions in Senate [101st-]

Other actions on (bills and) amendments ...
[or jump past the lengthy Other Action listings]
Search and display "other actions" on amendments in Bill Summary & Status from the 101st Congress to the present. Other Actions are pre-defined searches which include Major Action searches and more. The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page. Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
See also: Major actions on bills and amendments.

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
HOUSE AMENDMENT ACTIONS [101st-]
House amendment offered [Help] [101st-]
House amendment agreed to [Help] [101st-]
-- House amendments agreed to in Committee of the Whole (CoW) [101st-]
-- House amendments agreed to by House, never in CoW [101st-]
-- House amendments agreed to separately by House, agreed to in CoW [101st-]
-- House amendments not agreed to by House, agreed to in CoW [101st-]
House amendment not agreed to [Help] [101st-]
-- House amendments not agreed to in Committee of the Whole (CoW) [101st-]
-- House amendments not agreed to by House, never in CoW [101st-]
-- House amendments not agreed to by House, agreed to in CoW [101st-]
Other House amendment actions [Help] [101st-]
-- Amendments other actions when latest major action [101st-]
-- House amendments other actions when latest major action [101st-]
Roll call votes on amendments in House [Help] [101st-]

The links below go to the Actions area of the Advanced search page.
Use the Other Actions pick list to select desired action by name.
SENATE AMENDMENT ACTIONS [101st-]
Senate amendment submitted [Help] [101st-]
Senate amendment referred to committee [Help] [101st-]
Senate amendment proposed (on the floor) [Help] [101st-]
Senate amendment agreed to [Help] [101st-]
Senate amendment not agreed to [Help] [101st-]
Other Senate amendment actions [Help] [101st-]
-- Amendments other actions when latest major action [101st-]
-- Senate amendments other actions when latest major action [101st-]
Roll call votes on amendments in Senate [Help] [101st-]

Oversight: CRS guides to Congressional processes [legislative, budget, oversight, and other processes]

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

... Amendments  Bills  Committees  Congress  Cong Record  Floor  House  Laws  Leadership  Members  Schedules  Senate  Votes  ...

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Party: List of Members by party - House [not available on House site] and Senate
Passed/failed of passage...
Amendments agreed to. See: Major actions on (bills and) amendments
Amendments agreed to in Committee of the Whole. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Amendments between the houses after initial passage. See: Resolving differences
Conference reports agreed to. See: Conference
Measures failed of passage/not agreed to in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Measures failed of passage/not agreed to in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Measures passed/agreed to in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Measures passed/agreed to in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Measures passed House with no Senate floor action [Other Action-predefined Bill Summary & Status search] [101st-]
Measures passed House not passed Senate [Other Action-predefined Bill Summary & Status search] [101st-]
Measures passed Senate with no House floor action [Other Action-predefined Bill Summary & Status search] [101st-]
Measures passed Senate not passed House [Other Action-predefined Bill Summary & Status search] [101st-]
Measures passed over veto/failed of passage over veto. See: Vetoes
See also: Committees, Conference, Floor.
Pay. See: Salaries
Phone. See: Telephone
Phrase searching. See: Word/phrase searching
Pictures: Congressional Pictorial Directory [GPO Access]
Piper: State and local government on the Net [state and local government Web sites by state; from Piper Research]
Plurals: Automatic singular/plural radio buttons when searching LIS [Search Tips item]
Political advocacy groups. See: Think tanks and advocacy groups
Political Information.com issues links [list of political and policy Web sites]
Popular titles. See: Titles of legislation
Portals: Federal portals [LIS Agencies tab]
Postage stamps: Legislation on Commemorative postage stamps [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Precedents. See: Rules, precedents and procedures
Preparation for floor. See: Floor
President...
Bills cleared for White House [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Bills cleared for White House when latest major action. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]

Bills presented to President [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills presented to President when latest major action. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Bills sent to Archivist unsigned by President [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Bills signed by President [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Bills which may be ready to clear for White House. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Cabinet members [list compiled by CRS]
Impeachment of President Clinton. See: Topics - Impeachment...
Latest major actions on bills and amendments [scroll down for Presidential actions as latest major action] [101st-]
Living former Presidents of the U.S. and their libraries [list compiled by CRS]
Presidential cancellations. See: Line item vetoes
Presidential documents on National Archives (NARA) Web sites
Presidential nominations. See: Nominations
Presidents [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Presidents, Vice Presidents and coinciding Congressional sessions [Clerk of the House list, 1789-]
Treaties. See: Treaties
Vetoes. See: Line item vetoes, Vetoes.
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents [Presidential statements, messages, remarks ...] [1993 Clinton -]
White House latest news [remarks, statements, executive orders ... by date]
See also: Executive, Laws, White House.

Presidential proclamations ...
  Codification of Presidential proclamations and executive orders [National Archives] [1945-1989]
  Presidential documents on National Archives (NARA) Web sites

Previous Congresses - Information from previous Congresses. See: Dates
Prints: Committee prints. See: Committees
Privacy & security notices [for the Legislative Information System]

Private bills ...
  Explanation of private legislation
  Private bills [Search by type of bill in Bill Summary & Status] [93rd-]
  Private bills + public bills with private provisions [Search "private legislation" as a subject term in BSS Word/Phrase box] [97th-]

Private laws. See: Laws
Private legislation [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Project Vote Smart ...
  Home page
  Think tanks and research institutes [list of organizations]
  Voting data for Members of Congress
ProQuest Direct. [search newspapers + periodicals] [Senate access only]
Proximity operators ...
  Boolean connectors and proximity operators for searching LIS
  Order of processing of connectors
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 2: Using proximity connectors (words near each other) [Search Tips item]

Public laws. See: Laws
Quick clicks [LIS Home tab; quick links to commonly used legislative resources]

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Z
  Amendments  Bills  Committees  Congress  Cong Record  Floor  House  Laws  Leadership  Members  Schedules  Senate  Votes ...

Reauthorizations [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Record. See: Congressional Record
Referred to committee ...
  Bills referred to a specific committee [Committee/Subcommittee search in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
  Bills referred to a specific subcommittee [Committee/Subcommittee search in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
  Bills referred to a specific subcommittee [Search Tips item]
  Bills referred to (any) House committee [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Bills referred to (any) House subcommittee [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Bills referred to (any) Senate committee [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Bills referred to (any) Senate subcommittee [in Major Action search box] [Help]
  Multiple committee referral count searching [in Word/Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
See also: Discharge, Committees, Originated in committee, Reported by committee.

Related bills. See: Bills and resolutions
Reported by committee ...
  Bills not reported by or discharged from (any) committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
  Bills reported by a specific committee [Committee/Subcommittee search in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
  Bills reported by (any) House committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
  Bills reported by (any) Senate committee. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
  Bills reported to House or committee discharged [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills reported to Senate or committee discharged [in Major Action search box] [Help]
See also: Discharge, Committees, Originated in committee, Referred to committee.

Request: Introduced by request. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Research institutes. See: Think tanks and advocacy groups
Resolutions. See: Bills and resolutions

Resolving differences (amendments between the houses after initial passage) ...
Bills with resolving differences/conference-House actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Bills with resolving differences/conference-Senate actions [in Major Action search box] [Help] [101st-]
Suspension of rules in House while resolving differences. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
See also: Conference

Résumé of Congressional Activity ...
Current: 107th Congress - 1st and 2nd session [PDF format] and Archive [91st-]
See also: Congressional Record

Retirement: Legislation on federal employee retirement [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Reuters. See: NewsEdge Insight

Roll Call

Rules, precedents and procedures ...
Committee home pages: House [Committee on Rules] and Senate [Committee on Rules and Administration]
House precedents: Deschler's Precedents of the House [GPO Access] and House Practice
House procedures: general parliamentary, floor, + committee [Committee on Rules] and CRS guide
House special rules reported [Committee on Rules]
House standing rules: House text and CRS text
Senate Handbook [Senate access only]
Senate Manual [via GPO Access]
Senate procedures: Senate legislative process + CRS guide
Senate standing rules: Senate text and CRS text
Suspension of rules in House - Bills considered. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]

Salaries ...
Legislation on Congressional salaries [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]
Legislation on federal employee pay and benefits [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Schedules for Congress ...
Committee + subcommittee schedules-House: Combined list of schedules and Individual committee schedules
Committee + subcommittee schedules-Senate: Combined list of schedules and Individual committee schedules
Congressional Record: Select Daily Digest by date ("Committee Meetings" held + scheduled; House + Senate "Next Meeting")
Floor agenda: CRS products [formerly Legislative Alert]
Floor: Calendar of business for the Senate [GPO Access]
Floor: House schedule [program for the remainder of the week]
Floor-Majority: Whipping Post [House-daily], Whip Notice [House-wkly], Whip Alert [Senate-daily] + Whip Notice [Senate-wkly]
Floor-Minority: Daily Whip [House-daily], Whip Notice [House-wkly], Today [Senate-daily] + This Week [Senate-wkly]
Floor: Schedule by month- House majority schedule [PDF format]
Floor: Schedule by month- Senate majority schedule and Senate minority schedule
Legislative information and opinion via email [Search Tips item]
Now: House current floor proceedings [floor now] and special rules reported [House Rules Committee]
Now: Senate closed caption [floor now; Senate access only]
Now: Senate pending and proposed amendments [Senate Amendment Tracking System]
Schedules from C-SPAN: House and Senate [Congress Today and future; floor and committee]
Schedules from FedNet [floor and committee]
Schedules from National Journal [Daybook: The Hill Today and future; floor and committee]
See also: Calendars

Scholarships: Legislation authorizing scholarships, fellowships [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Search tips ...
- General: Automatic singular/plural radio buttons
- General: Clearing search pages in LIS to avoid unexpected results
- General: HTML and PDF explanation and examples
- General: Show search query analysis
- General: Where to get LIS training [Search Tips item]
- General: Word endings using asterisks
- General navigation: Navigation tips and tricks
- General navigation: Using the space bar to move down a Web page
- Join the LIS-TIPS mailing list
- Search Tips archive [formerly Feature of the Week]

Security: Privacy & security notices [for the Legislative Information System]

Senate ...
- A collection of Senate resources [LIS Senate tab]

Calendars. See: Calendars
Closed caption [floor now; Senate access only]
Commercial sources [House access only; House and Senate access; LIS Media tab]
Ethics. See: Ethics
Executive communications to the Senate [search catalog] [96th-] [Help]
FrontPage [Senate access only]
Home page

Leadership. See: Leadership
Legislative activities reports on the Senate Web site [Search Tips item]

Media gallery [print, periodical, photographers, radio-TV]

Members. See: Members
News Wire [Senate access only] - Shared Views and Personal Views
Presidential nominations. See: Nominations
Rules and precedents. See: Rules, precedents and procedures
Schedules. See: Schedules
Senate Library [Senate access only] and their Hot bills list [key House + Senate legislation] [Search Tips item]
Senate pending and proposed amendments [in Senate Amendment Tracking System]
Sponsors and cosponsors. See: Sponsors and cosponsors of legislation
Treaties. See: Treaties
Webster [Senate access only]

See also: Amendments, Bills, Committees, Congress, Cong Record, House, Laws, Votes.

Sessions of Congress ...
- Days-in-session calendars: House [94th - present] and Senate [95th, 2nd session - present]
- Joint sessions, joint meetings, and inaugurations [Clerk of the House list, 1789-]
- Presidents, Vice Presidents and coinciding Congressional sessions [Clerk of the House list, 1789-]
- Sessions of Congress [session numbers and dates, 1789-]

Short titles. See: Titles of legislation

Singualrs: Automatic singular/plural radio buttons when searching LIS [Search Tips item]
Site map [of the Legislative Information System]
Speaker of the House. See: Leadership
Special days, weeks, months, years legislation [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Sponsors and cosponsors of legislation ...

Amendment sponsor / cosponsor searching and sponsor list [in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Bill sponsor / cosponsor searching and sponsor list [in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Cosponsor count searching [search in Word/Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Cosponsor date searching [search in Word/Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Did we cosponsor any of those bills? [Search Tips item]
House bills with 218+ cosponsors. See: Topics [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Member name searches in the Multi-Congress file [Help]
Senate bills sponsored/cosponsored by leadership. See: Topics [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Senate bills with 60+ cosponsors. See: Topics [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Sponsors and cosponsors by state and district [search in Bill Summary & Status] [Search Tips item]

SST. See: Topics [formerly Selected Search Topics]

State and local ...
List by Member with state/district/party information: House and Senate
List of Members of Congress by state: House and Senate
NASCIO State Search [state government Web sites by function; NASCIO was formerly NASIRE]
Piper: State and local government on the Net [state and local government Web sites by state; from Piper Research]
Sponsors and cosponsors by state and district [search in Bill Summary & Status] [Search Tips item]
State and local government [Top Subject Term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
State courts [from the National Center for State Courts]
State Web locator [from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Center for Information Law and Policy]
Uniform laws [uniform state laws]

Statistics ...
FedStats [statistics produced by federal agencies]
Date of all actions on bills and amendments [101st-]
Major actions on bills and amendments [101st-]
Résumé of Congressional Activity. See: Résumé of Congressional Activity

Status of legislation ...
History of bills and resolutions. See: History of bills and resolutions
Major / Other actions on amendments. See: Major actions / Other actions on (bills and) amendments
Major / Other actions on bills. See: Major actions / Other actions on bills (and amendments)
Status [search in Word/Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Tips on status searches]

Stopwords [words that are not searchable in LIS and THOMAS]
Subcommittees. See: Committees

Subject term searching to find legislation ...
Browse subject terms: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [in Bill Summary & Status] [Help + Search Tips item]
Legislative Indexing Vocabulary (LIV) [subject hierarchy-broader, narrower, related terms- used in Bill Summary & Status]
Search subject terms [in Word/Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Topics. See: Topics [pre-defined searches in Bill Summary & Status]
Sub-terms [in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Top subject terms [each bill is assigned one top term in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 6: Using field specifiers (title, latest summary, ...) [Search Tips item]

Summaries of legislation. See: Bills and resolutions
Supplemental: Legislation on emergency supplemental appropriations [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Supreme Court ...
Decisions [Supreme Court Collection at Cornell's Legal Information Institute]
Home page
Justices [list compiled by CRS]
See also: Judicial

Suspension of rules in House - Bills considered. See: Other Actions [predefined Bill Summary & Status searches]
Telephone ...
Telephone directories for committees: House [coming soon; unlimited access] and Senate [Senate access only]
Member telephone directories: House [unlimited access] and Senate [Senate access only]

Term limits: Legislation on Congressional term limits [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Terrorism ...
Legislation on terrorism: Terrorism topics [bills + resolutions on terrorism and related topics]
Terrorism briefing book: Legislative issues [from the Congressional Research Service]

Think tanks and advocacy groups ...
Lobbyists [alphabetical + subject lists of political advocacy groups, from California State University]
Lobbyists: Senate lobbyists disclosure [forms filed at the Office of Public Records]
Political Information.com issues links [list of political and policy Web sites]
Think tanks and research institutes [list of organizations from Project Vote Smart]

THOMAS ...
Building direct links to THOMAS documents [and accompanying Search Tip plus Search Tip on updating links]
Comparison of LIS and THOMAS
THOMAS and its Frequently asked questions
See also: Library of Congress

Time: allpolitics.com [political news from CNN / Time]

Titles of legislation ...
Bill Summary & Status [Official and short titles are displayed from 93rd-present. Popular titles are displayed from 103rd-present.]
Browse popular and short titles: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101 [Bill Summary & Status] [Search Tips item]
Search titles [search in Word / Phrase box in Bill Summary & Status] [Help]
Word / phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 6: Using field specifiers (title, latest summary, ...) [Search Tips item]

Today. See: Dates-Today

Top subject terms. See: Subject term searching to find legislation

Topics: A [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Pre-defined searches ready to run in Bill Summary & Status on topics of current and continuing legislative interest. Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.

Abortion
Acid rain [98th-]
Adoption and foster care
Affirmative action programs
AIDS/HIV [98th-]
Air pollution
Airline hijackings, bombings, other crimes
Airline industry
Airline security
Animal welfare
Anniversaries [Scope Note]
Antitrust actions
Appropriations [Scope Note]
Arms control
Authorizing appropriations [Scope Note]
Authorizing monuments, memorials [Scope Note]
Authorizing scholarships, fellowships [Scope Note]

Topics: B [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Balanced budget
Bankruptcy
Bills introduced by request [Scope Note] and Search Tips item [93rd-]

Topics: C [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Campaign finance
Census
Child abuse
Child care
Child support
Children abducted by a parent
Commemorations [Scope Note]
Commemorative coins [Scope Note]
Commemorative postage stamps [Scope Note]
Competition in industry and trade
Congressional gold medals [Scope Note] [97th-]
Congressional Medals of Honor [Scope Note]
Congressional salaries [Scope Note]
Congressional term limits [Scope Note]
Congressional tributes [Scope Note] [95th-]
Constitutional amendments proposed [Scope Note] [93rd-]
Constitutional amendments proposed: joint resolutions only [101st-]
Constitutional amendments proposed: no House rules [101st-]
Continuing appropriations [Scope Note]

Topics: D [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Death penalty
Declarations of war
Defense readiness and modernization
Defense spending
Designating buildings, facilities, structures [Scope Note]
Disabled Americans
Disaster relief
District of Columbia [Scope Note]
Drug abuse

Topics: E [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Education
Electric utility regulation
Electronic surveillance
Elementary and secondary education
Elementary and secondary education, improving public education
Emergency supplemental appropriations [Scope Note]
Endangered species
Energy
Enterprise zones [94th, 96th-]
Estate tax

Topics: F [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Fast-track trade agreements and negotiating authority [98th-]
Federal employee pay and benefits [Scope Note]
Federal employee retirement [Scope Note]
Federal land conveyance
Flag desecration
Flat tax
Food safety
Foreign aid
Foreign trade

Topics: G [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Global climate change
Gun control

Topics: H [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Hazardous waste disposal
Health care access
Health care costs
Health insurance
Higher education
Higher education costs
Highway use and fees
Holidays [Scope Note]
Home ownership
Homeless Americans [93rd, 95th-]
House bills with 218 or more cosponsors [can be called up under suspension of the rules] [Scope Note]
House discharge petitions [in Topics search box] [Scope Note] [104th-] [and Search Tips item]

Topics: I [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Immigration
Impeachment of President Clinton [Scope Note] [105th-106th]
Intelligence gathering
Internet [102nd-]
IRAs

Topics: L [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Liability
Line item veto [Scope Note]
Long term care
Low income housing

Topics: M [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Medical malpractice
Medicare
Medicare reform
Military base closings
Minimum wage
Money-laundering
Most favored nation status

Topics: N [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
National parks, wilderness areas, public lands
National security

Topics: O [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.

http://www.congress.gov/help.html
Older Americans
Organized crime

Topics: P [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
PACs
Pornography
Prayer in schools
Privacy concerns
Privatization [99th-]

Topics: R [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Reauthorizations [Scope Note]
Regulatory rulemaking
Renewable energy
RICO actions
Right to bear arms

Topics: S [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Selective service
Senate bills sponsored and cosponsored by leadership [Scope Note] [Search Tips item]
Senate bills with 60 or more cosponsors [not susceptible to filibuster] [Scope Note]
Sexual assault
Small business
Social Security
Social Security reform
Space policy
Special days, weeks, months, years [Scope Note]
Superfund sites [96th-]

Topics: T [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Tax credits
Tax reform
Telephone services
Terrorism
Terrorist attack, September 11, 2001 [107th-]
Tobacco

Topics: V [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Vietnam War POWs, MIA
Violence in schools
Voter registration

Topics: W [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
War and emergency powers
Water pollution
Weapons of mass destruction
Welfare

Topics: Y [Help and Scope Notes] [or jump past the lengthy Topic listings]
Topic links below go to Quick search page; select search from Topics pick list.
Year 2000 computer problem [104th-]

Trade agreements [text of trade agreements from the Department of Commerce Trade Compliance Center]
Training: Where to get LIS training [Search Tips item]
Treaties ...

Text of treaty documents [GPO Access: Catalog of Congressional Documents; 107th] [also 106th, 105th, and 104th]
Treaties [search catalog] [94th-] [Help]
Treaties with votes on resolutions of ratification [lists] [103rd-]

Tributes: Legislation on Congressional tributes [in Topics search box] [Help and Scope Note]

Truncation ...

Automatic singular/plural radio buttons when searching LIS [Search Tips item]
Word endings using asterisks when searching LIS [Search Tips item]

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

... Amendments | Bills | Committees | Congress | Cong Record | Floor | House | Laws | Leadership | Members | Schedules | Senate | Votes ...

Uniform laws [uniform state laws]
U.S. Capitol. See: Capitol
U.S. Code [House of Representatives: Office of the Law Revision Counsel]
U.S. Code [Cornell University: Legal Information Institute]

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

... Amendments | Bills | Committees | Congress | Cong Record | Floor | House | Laws | Leadership | Members | Schedules | Senate | Votes ...

Versions of bill texts: Finding and viewing versions of bills [Search Tips item]
Versions of bill texts: THOMAS list [in rough procedural order] and GPO Access list [in alphabetical order with some definitions]

Vetoes ...

Bills failed of passage in House over veto [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills failed of passage in Senate over veto [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills passed House over veto [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills passed Senate over veto [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills pocket vetoed by President [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills vetoed by President [in Major Action search box] [Help]

Latest major actions on bills and amendments [scroll down for veto actions as latest major action] [101st-]

Laws enacted over veto. See: Laws

Vetoed bills browse list: 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101, 100, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93

Vetoed bills browse list: [for 101st- prefer Major Action for easier clicks to next bill display]

Vetoes and pocket vetoes [Other Action-predefined Bill Summary & Status search] [101st-]

See also: Line item vetoes, President.

Video ...

House floor [C-SPAN]
Senate committees [CapitolHearings.org, a service of C-SPAN]
Senate floor [C-SPAN]

See also: Media.

Votes ...

Amendments with recorded votes: Roll call votes on amendments in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Amendments with recorded votes: Roll call votes on amendments in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with recorded votes: Roll call votes on measures in House [in Major Action search box] [Help]
Bills with recorded votes: Roll call votes on measures in Senate [in Major Action search box] [Help]

Committee: Votes in committee. See: Markups
C-SPAN Congressional vote search
Find vote results when you know the bill number: Bill Summary & Status [via links in BSS displays]
Find vote results when you know the vote number: House and Senate
Congressional Quarterly: cq.com [CQ floor votes - Senate access only]
House votes: Today, Archive and Search [House access only]
Project Vote Smart voting data for Members of Congress
Senate: Today, This session, Archive [101st-]
Votes via LIS Home tab: How to pick a search page [what's in Senate + House votes, when to use other files]
See also: Amendments, Bills, Congress, Cong Record, House, Laws, Members, Schedules, Senate.

Washington Post: OnPolitics [political news from the Washington Post]
Washington Times: Nation/Politics section [political news from the Washington Times]
Webster [Senate access only]
Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents [Presidential statements, messages, remarks ...] [1993-]
Westlaw . [Senate access only]
What's new in LIS
White House ...
  Cleared for the White House. See: President
  Home page
  Home page archive [Clinton administration White House Web sites - at National Archives] [1994-2000]
  Search for Presidential documents and more
  See also: Executive, Laws, President.
Word/phrase searching ...
  Automatic singular/plural radio buttons when searching LIS [Search Tips item]
  Bill Summary & Status-Advanced search page [Help]
  Bill Summary & Status- Multi-Congress search page [Help]
  Bill Summary & Status- Quick search page [Help]
  Bill Text search page [Help]
  Clearing search pages in LIS to avoid unexpected results [Search Tips item]
  Committee reports search page [Help]
  Congressional Record-Advanced search [Help]
  Congressional Record- Quick search [Help]
  Connectors: Boolean connectors and proximity operators
  Connectors: Order of processing
  Fields. See: Field specifiers
  Show search query analysis in LIS [Search Tips item]
Stopwords [words that are not searchable in LIS and THOMAS]
Word endings using asterisks when searching LIS [Search Tips item]
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 1: Using quotes (phrase searching) [Search Tips item]
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 2: Using proximity connectors (words near each other) [Search Tips item]
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 3: Using Boolean connectors (and, or, not) [Search Tips item]
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 4: Using f/c, u/c, and l/c operators (upper case) [Search Tips item]
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 5: Using backslashes (exact match searching) [Search Tips item]
  Word/phrase searching on advanced search pages, Part 6: Using field specifiers (title, latest summary, ...) [Search Tips item]
World. See: International
Appendix C:

List of former Members of Congress who are registered lobbyists
## Feature
### Congressional Affairs

### From Lawmakers to Lobbyists

These 144 former senators and House members are now registered lobbyists:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENATORS</th>
<th>COMPANY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn. (1967-85)</td>
<td>Oppenheimer, Wolff &amp; Donnelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Bayh, D-Ind. (1963-81)</td>
<td>Arent, Fox et al.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John C. Culver, D-Iowa (1975-81)</td>
<td>Parry &amp; Romani Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz. (1977-95)</td>
<td>Bryan Cave LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan J. Dixon, D-Ill. (1981-93)</td>
<td>Durenberger/footnotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Durenberger, R-Minn. (1978-95)</td>
<td>Hecht, Spencer &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howell Heflin, D-Ala. (1979-97)</td>
<td>Johnston &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Bennett Johnston, D-La. (1972-97)</td>
<td>Paul Laxalt Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Kasten, R-Wis. (1981-93)</td>
<td>Competitive Market Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Laxalt, R-Nev. (1974-87)</td>
<td>Consumer Federation of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlan Mathews, D-Tenn. (1993-94)</td>
<td>O'Connor &amp; Hannan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. McClure, R-Idaho (1973-91)</td>
<td>Paul Weis et al.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio (1974-95)</td>
<td>Board of Trustees, Southern Illinois University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Packwood, R-Ore. (1969-95)</td>
<td>Dickstein, Shapiro &amp; Mohr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Pressler, R-S.D. (1979-97)</td>
<td>Paul Laxalt Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Symms, R-Idaho (1981-93)</td>
<td>Hogen &amp; Harison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph D. Tydings, D-Md. (1965-71)</td>
<td>Helen Delich Bentley &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPRESENTATIVES</td>
<td>COMPANY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendell Bailey, R-Mo. (1981-93)</td>
<td>Hogen &amp; Harison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael D. Barnes, D-Md. (1979-87)</td>
<td>Helen Delich Bentley &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Delich Bentley, R-Md. (1986-95)</td>
<td>Ed Bethune &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beau Boulter, R-Texas (1986-89)</td>
<td>Oppenheimer, Wolff &amp; Donnelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Carney, R-N.Y. (1979-87)</td>
<td>Bryan Cave LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rod Chandler, R-Wash. (1983-93)</td>
<td>Hecht, Spencer &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Coleman, R-Mo. (1975-95)</td>
<td>Paul Laxalt Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald D. Coleman, R-Texas (1985-96)</td>
<td>Farris, Mathews &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Corcoran, R-Ill. (1977-85)</td>
<td>Competitive Market Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Coughlin, R-Pa. (1985-93)</td>
<td>Consumer Federation of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Coyne, R-Pa. (1981-83)</td>
<td>O'Connor &amp; Hannan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George &quot;Buddy&quot; Darden, D-Fla. (1983-95)</td>
<td>R. Duffy Wall &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis E. Eckart, D-Ohio (1981-93)</td>
<td>Advantage Associates Inc, O'Connor &amp; Hannan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Lee Evans, D-Ga. (1977-83)</td>
<td>Long, Aldridge &amp; Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David W. Evans, D-Ind. (1975-83)</td>
<td>Bob Davis &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas B. Evans Jr., R-De. (1977-83)</td>
<td>Williams &amp; Jensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Fleisch, R-Texas (1981-97)</td>
<td>Albanian American Civic League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie G. Filippo, D-Ala. (1979-97)</td>
<td>Downey Chandler Inc, Arter &amp; Hadden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Funderburk, R-N.C. (1986-97)</td>
<td>Twenty-First Century Group Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Gradison, R-Ohio (1975-93)</td>
<td>Michael P. Flanagan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Grandy, R-Iowa (1987-95)</td>
<td>RG Filippo &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Hancock, D-Texas (1975-79)</td>
<td>Goodwill Industries International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert P. Hanrahan, R-Ill. (1973-75)</td>
<td>Hance, Scarborough et al.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert E. Harris II, D-Va. (1975-91)</td>
<td>Advantage Associates Inc, Harris, Eilsworth &amp; Levin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Alphabetic List

- Alcade & Fay
- Arent, Fox et al.
- Apco Associates
- Carmen Associates
- R. Duffy Wall & Associates
- Manatt, Phelps & Phillips
- Bill Carney & Co.
- Jefferson Group Inc, Arter & Hadden
- Capitol Link Inc, BASF Corp.
- Advantage Associates Inc, O'Connor & Hannan
- Eckart, Seams et al.
- National Air Transportation Assn.
- Long, Aldridge & Norman
- Bob Davis & Associates
- Williams & Jensen
- Albanian American Civic League
- Downey Chandler Inc, Arter & Hadden
- Randell, Arendal et al.
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn.
- Billy Lee Evans
- Dave Evans Associates
- Evans Group Ltd.
- Twenty-First Century Group Inc
- Michael P. Flanagan
- RG Filippo & Associates
- Harold Ford & Co.
- David Funderburk Associates
- Sam Gibbons & Co.
- Health Insurance Association of America
- Goodwill Industries International
- Hance, Scarborough et al.
- Advantage Associates Inc, Harris, Eilsworth & Levin
- American Council of Life Insurance
Members of the 106th Congress Who Are Now Registered Lobbyists

Senate
Richard Bryan (D-NV)
Rodney Grams (R-MN)
Connie Mack (R-FL)

House
Bill Archer (R-TX)
Brian Bilbray (R-CA)
Thomas Bliley (R-VA)
Thomas Ewing (R-IL)
Michael Forbes (D-NY)
Tillie Fowler (D-FL)
Robert Franks (R-NJ)
William Goodling (R-PA)
Ron Klink (D-PA)
Steven Kuykendall (R-CA)
Bill McCollum (R-FL)
David McIntosh (R-IN)
Ron Packard (R-CA)
Ed Pease (R-IN)
John Edward Porter (R-IL)
Bud Shuster (R-PA)

To date, the only member of the 107th Congress registered as a lobbyist is Sonny Callahan (R-AL)

Appendix D:

Letter from James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress,
to Mr. Ari Schwartz and Mr. Rick Blum

September 3, 1999
September 3, 1999

I am responding to your letter of August 17 urging me to “make available on the Internet the reports of the Congressional Research Service.” According to your letter, a survey conducted by your organizations identified these reports and issue briefs as the “single most frequently requested category of information that respondents to our survey wanted to see online.”

The question of the extent of dissemination of Congressional Research Service reports and issue briefs outside Congress is a matter for the Congress to determine. A long-standing legislative provision restricts CRS from directly disseminating its products to the public without congressional committee authorization. Congressional resolutions and policy statements over the years have reiterated the role of CRS as adjunct congressional staff whose communications and documents prepared in the course of supporting the legislative and representational duties of Members and committees of Congress are to remain within the control of Congress. These policies preserve the direct relationship Members have with their constituents. In addition, a variety of legal issues, cost considerations, institutional repercussions, and technical complexities need to be weighed carefully by Congress in developing policy for Internet access to these materials.

That said, you should be aware that CRS and congressional committees and Members are exploring ways to utilize the Internet to facilitate dissemination of CRS reports and issue briefs by Members and committees. Large numbers of CRS reports and issue briefs are distributed now by congressional offices when they deem these products appropriate in responding to their constituent questions and concerns. Members often find that CRS reports are responsive to inquiries by constituents on matters of public policy and many have selected such reports for placement on their Web sites. The Senate Rules Committee last year encouraged offices to use their Web sites to disseminate CRS reports and issue briefs, and the CRS oversight committees in both the House and the Senate have worked with CRS to develop a system to facilitate the posting of CRS reports and issue briefs on Member and committee Web sites.

Disclosure of CRS reports and issue briefs by Members and Committees—and greater use of the Internet to achieve such disclosure—is seen as reaching the proper balance between the public’s desire for information on the issues before Congress, the preservation of CRS’ role in
the legislative process, and the protection of the Member's role in informing his/her constituents on their public policy concerns. The Director of CRS is committed to working with Members of Congress to facilitate their ability to use modern technology in keeping their constituents informed about the basis of their policy decisions.

Sincerely,

James H. Billington
The Librarian of Congress

Mr. Ari Schwartz
Center for Democracy and Technology
1634 I Street, NW, 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Rick Blum
OMB Watch
1742 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009

AE/rr/jvn
Appendix E:

Letter from Stan Brand, former General Counsel to the House of Representatives,
to The Honorable John McCain
January 27, 1998

Letter from Stan Brand, former General Counsel to the House of Representatives,
to The Honorable John McCain,
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
February 6, 2001
January 27, 1998

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
SR-241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0303

Dear Senator McCain:

I am writing to amplify the comments that I recently made to the press concerning the applicability of the Speech or Debate Clause, U.S. Const. art. I, § 6, cl. 1, to certain CRS products which your bill would, if enacted, make available on the Internet. Juliet Eilperin, Memo Claims That McCain Legislation to Put CRS Reports Online Could Have Constitutional Problems, Roll Call, January 15, 1998, p. 8.

First, as General Counsel to the House of Representatives I litigated virtually scores of cases involving the Speech or Debate Clause, including a landmark case before the Supreme Court reaffirming the central function of the clause in protecting the legislative branch from judicial and executive branch interference, United States v. Helstoski; 442 U.S. 477, Helstoski v. Meanor, 442 U.S. 500 (1979); see also, Vander Jagt v. O'Neili, 699 F.2d 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1983); In Re Grand Jury Investigation, 587 F.2d 589 (3d Cir. 1978); United States v. Eilberg, 507 F. Supp. 267 (E.D. Pa. 1980); Benford v. American Broadcasting Co., 98 F.R.D. 42 (D. Md. 1983), rev'd sub nom. In Re: Guthrie, 735 F.2d 634 (4th Cir. 1984). Many of these cases which I litigated were cited in the CRS memorandum as supporting their conclusion that publication on the Internet would adversely affect the Speech or Debate Clause privilege.

I believe that the concerns expressed in the CRS memorandum are either overstated, or the extent they are not, provide no basis for arguing that protection of CRS works will be weakened by your bill. I also want you to know that I was, and remain, a strong advocate for vigorous assertion and protection of the Speech or
 Debate Clause privilege as a great bulwark of the separation of powers doctrine that protects the Congress from Executive and Judicial branch encroachment.

The CRS memorandum states "extensive involvement by CRS in the informing function might cause the judiciary and administrative agencies to reassess their perception of CRS as playing a substantial role in the legislative process, and thereby might endanger a claim of immunity even in an instance in which CRS was fulfilling its legislative mission."

This fear is simply unfounded. While the courts have consistently relegated the so-called "informing function" to non-constitutionally protected status, they have also steadfastly refused to permit litigants to pierce the privilege for activities that are cognate to the legislative process despite later dissemination outside the Congress. So, for example, in McSurely v. McClellan, 553 F.2d 1277, 1286 n.3 (D.C. Cir. 1976) (en banc), the Court refused to allow a litigant to question Senate aides about acts taken within the Committee, even though acts of dissemination outside the Congress were subject to discovery. Publication of a CRS product on the Internet would no more subject CRS employees to questioning about the basis for their work, consultations with colleagues or the sources of that work, than would be the case if the same CRS product were obtained by means other than the Internet. Indeed, the fact that House and Senate proceedings are televised does not alter the applicability of the clause to floor speeches, committee deliberations, staff consultation, or other legislative activities. Even certain consultations concerning press relations are protected though dissemination to the media is not protected. Mary Jacoby, Hill Press Releases Protected Speech, Roll Call, April 17, 1995, p. 1 (the Senate Legal Counsel argued that because a legislative discussion is embedded in a press release doesn't entitle a litigant to question staff about the substance of the legislation); see also Tavoulareas v. Piro, 527 F. Supp. 676, 682 (D.D.C. 1981) (court ordered congressional deponents to merely identify documents disseminated outside of Congress but did not permit questions regarding preparation of the documents, the basis of conclusions contained therein, or the sources who provided evidence relied upon in the documents), Peroff v. Manual, 421 F. Supp. 570, 574 (D.D.C. 1976) (preparation of a Committee witness by a congressional investigator is protected because "facially legislative in character"). Under this line of caselaw, it is difficult to foresee how the mere dissemination of a CRS product could subject any CRS employee to inquiry concerning the preparation of such a product. In short, because "discovery into alleged conduct of [legislative aides] not protected by the Speech or Debate Clause can infringe the [legislative aides'] right to be free from inquiry into legislative acts which are so protected," McSurely v. McClellan, 521 F.2d 1024, 1033 (D.C. Cir. 1975), aff'd en banc by an equally divided court, 553 F.2d 1277 (1976) courts have imposed the Clause as a bar to any inquiry into acts unrelated to dissemination of the congressional reports.
In Tavoulareas v. Piro, 527 F. Supp. at 682, the court ruled "[t]he fact that the documents were ultimately disseminated outside of Congress does not provide any justification" for piercing the privilege as to the staff's internal use of the document. Accord McSurely v. McClellan, 553 F.2d at 1296-1298 (use and retention of illegally seized documents by Committee not actionable); United States v. Helstoski, 442 U.S. 477, 489 (1979) (clause bars introduction into evidence of even non-contemporaneous discussions and correspondence which merely describe and refer to legislative acts in bribery prosecution of Member); Eastland v. United States Servicemen's Fund, 421 U.S. at 499 n. 13 (subpoena to Senate staff aide for documents and testimony quashed because "received by [the employee] pursuant to his official duties as a staff employee of the Senate" and therefore ", . . . within the privilege of the Senate"). See also United States v. Hoffa, 205 F. Supp. 710, 723 (S.D. Fla. 1962), cert. denied sub nom Hoffa v. Lieb, 371 U.S. 892 (wiretap withheld from defendant by "invocation of legislative privilege by the United States Senate").

In the Tavoulareas case, in which I represented the House deponents, part of the theory of plaintiff's case against the Post was that the reporter "laundered" the story through the committee "as a means of lending legitimacy" to the stories and information provided by other sources, Tavoulareas v. Piro, 93 F.R.D. at 18. In pursuance of validating this theory, the plaintiff sought to prove that the committee never formally authorized the investigation, but rather that the staff merely served as a conduit and engaged in no bona fide investigative activity. The court ruled that "although plaintiffs have repeatedly suggested that the subject investigation was not actually aimed at uncovering information of valid legislative interest . . . it is clear that such assertions, even if true, do not pierce the legislative privilege."

As a practical matter, therefore, a litigant suing or seeking to take testimony from a CRS employee based on dissemination of a report alleged to be libelous or actionable may be unable to obtain the collateral evidence needed to prove such a claim — a serious impediment to bringing such a case in the first place.

Even in the case of Doe v. McMillan, 412 U.S. 306 (1973) relied on by the CRS memorandum to support its narrow view of the Clause's protection, the Court of Appeals on remand stated: "Restricting distribution of committee hearings and reports to Members of Congress and the federal agencies would be unthinkable." 566 F.2d 713, 718 (D.C. Cir. 1977). It would be similarly unthinkable to subject CRS to broad ranging discovery simply because its work product was made available on the Internet.

The CRS memorandum raises the specter that litigants might even seek "the files of CRS analysts" in actions challenging the privilege. It is beyond peradventure of doubt, however, that publication of even alleged defamatory or actionable congressional committee reports does not entitle a litigant to legislative files used or created in
preparing such a report. United States v. Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ, 515 F. Supp. 246, 248-49 (D.D.C. 1981) In re: Guthrie, Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, 773 F.2d 634 (4th Cir. 1984), Eastland v. United States Servicemen's Fund, 421 U.S. at 499, n. 13. Given the foregoing caselaw, I fail to see a realistic threat that CRS employees will be subjected to any increased risk of liability, or discovery of their files. Of course, nothing can prevent litigants from filing frivolous or ill-founded suits; but their successful prosecution or ability to obtain evidence from legislative files seems remote and nothing in your bill would change that.

The CRS memoranda even goes so far as to suggest that claims of speech or debate immunity for CRS products might lead to in camera inspection of material, itself an incursion into legislative branch discretion. Yet in the very case cited to by CRS memo, no court ordered in camera inspection of House documents. In Re: Guthrie, supra, involved no in camera inspection of legislation documents. These cases are typically litigated on the basis of the facial validity of the privilege and few, if any, courts of which I am aware have even gone so far as to order in camera inspection. See United States v. Dowdy, 479 F. 2d 213, 226 (4th Cir. 1973) ("Once it was determined, as here, that the legislative function . . . was apparently being performed, the proprietary and motivation for the action taken as well as the detail of the acts performed, are immune from judicial inquiry"). Under the Clause, courts simply do not routinely resort to in camera review to resolve privilege disputes. Given the now highly developed judicial analysis of the applicability of the Clause to modern legislative practices it rarely occurs. In one recent celebrated case cited to by the CRS, the Court upheld a claim of privilege for tobacco company documents obtained by Congress even though they were alleged to have been stolen, without ever seeking in camera review. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. v. Williams, 62 F.3d 408, 417 (D.C. Cir. 1995) ("Once the documents were received by Congress for legislative use – at least so long as congressmen were not involved in the alleged theft – an absolute constitutional ban of privilege drops like a steel curtain to prevent B&W from seeking discovery").

In an abundance of caution, and to address CRS’ concerns, you might consider adding the following language to the bill: “Nothing herein shall be deemed or considered to diminish, qualify, condition, waive or otherwise affect applicability of the constitution’s Speech or Debate Clause, or any other privilege available to Congress, its agencies or their employees, to any CRS product made available on the Internet under this bill.”

I appreciate the CRS sensitivity to subjecting its employees, or their work product, to searching discovery by litigants. Based on the very good caselaw protecting their performance of legislative duties and the strong institutional precedent in both the House and Senate in defending CRS against such intrusions, I do not believe your bill creates any greater exposure to such risks than already exists.
I hope my views are helpful in your deliberations on this issue.

Sincerely,

Stan Brand
Stanley M. Brand
February 6, 2001

HAND DELIVERED:

The Honorable John McCain, Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
SR-241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0303

Dear Senator McCain:

I am writing to address the provisions of a draft Senate Resolution which I understand you intend to introduce directing the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms to provide Internet access to certain public congressional and Congressional Research Service documents. This resolution is substantially the same as a bill you introduced in 1998 to make certain of the same documents available on the Internet.


I concluded then, and reaffirm that nothing in the resolution will alter or modify applicability of the Speech or Debate Clause protections to CRS products.

There is one sense in which your revised resolution may actually strengthen the protections of the Clause for CRS products. By lodging responsibility in the Sergeant-at-Arms for providing access, you have retained in a legislative officer, as opposed to the CRS, the power to make determinations concerning accessibility. The Sergeant-at-Arms, is a “[r]anking nonmember” of the Senate and one of the statutory “officers of the Congress,” Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1, 128 (1975) and 2 U.S.C. § 60-1(b) and there can be, therefore, no doubt about the Senate’s intent to repose in one of its officers the power to control its privileges.

In doing so, you have, as a practical matter as well, given the Senate more direct control over access to CRS matters. See United States v. Hoffa, 205 F.Supp. 710, 723
(S.D.Fla. 1962)(cert. denied sub nom Hoffa v. Lieb, 371 U.S. 892 (invocation of legislative privilege by the United States Senate conclusive upon judicial branch). Given that any putative litigant seeking to obtain privileged CRS documents would have to actually serve process upon the Sergeant-at-Arms to obtain documents under the revised resolution, it is even less likely under the revised resolution that a party could obtain disclosure of such documents.

Sincerely,

Stan Brand

Stanley M. Brand

SMB:mob
Appendix F:

Letter from Chairman John Warner and Ranking Member Wendell H. Ford
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
to Senate Colleagues
June 10, 1998
Dear Colleague:

The Committee on Rules and Administration wishes to advise all Senators of their ability to make Congressional Research Service (CRS) products available to the public via Member and Committee Internet web sites.

As you know, CRS works exclusively for Congress and is prohibited from disseminating its work directly to the public. However, in accordance with a longstanding policy in the Senate, Members can and often do release CRS products to the public as part of their constituent service activities.

With the rapidly expanding use of the Internet, we believe it is appropriate for Members and Committees to use their web sites to further disseminate CRS products. The Rules Committee has worked with CRS to develop a system to facilitate the posting of CRS products on Member and Committee web sites. We invite you to visit the Rules Committee web site at http://www.senate.gov/-rules/ to view our posting of CRS products and we encourage you to post CRS products on your web site.

It is our intent to evaluate the public interest in this feature and the accompanying impact on CRS, Committees and Member offices before considering additional ways to electronically disseminate CRS products.

Robert Newlen of CRS can be reached at 7-4313 to coordinate the posting of CRS products on your web site.

With kind regards,

Wendell H. Ford
Ranking Member

John Warner
Chairman
Appendix G:

Letters from Groups
to The Honorable John McCain and The Honorable Patrick Leahy,
and The Honorable Christopher Shays
February 9, 1999
February 9, 1999

The Honorable John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McCain and Leahy:

We strongly endorse the Congressional Openness Act to place important congressional documents on the Internet, including Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports and Issue Briefs, CRS Authorization and Appropriation products, lobbyist disclosure reports, and Senate gift disclosure.

The Congressional Openness Act recognizes that "it is often burdensome, difficult and time-consuming for citizens to obtain timely access to public records of the United States Congress," and would help provide taxpayers with easy access to the congressional research and documents that we pay for.

CRS products are some of the finest research prepared by the federal government, on a vast range of topics. But citizens cannot obtain most CRS products directly. At present, many CRS products are available on an internal congressional intranet only for use by Members of Congress and their staffs -- not the public. Barriers to obtaining CRS products serve no useful purpose, and damage citizens' ability to participate in the congressional legislative process. Citizens, scholars, journalists, librarians, businesses, and many others have long wanted access to CRS reports via the Internet.

In 1995, Congress passed the Lobbying Disclosure Act to require Washington lobbyists to disclose key information about their activities. Placing lobbyist disclosure reports on the Internet would help citizens to track patterns of influence in Congress, and to discover who is paying whom how much to lobby on what issues.

The Congressional Openness Act contains a sense of the Senate resolution that Senate and Joint Committees "should provide access via the Internet to publicly-available committee information, documents, and proceedings, including bills, reports, and transcripts of committee meetings that are open to the public." Congress owes this to the American people.

In 1822, James Madison aptly described why the public must have reliable information about Congress: "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."
Your bill falls squarely within the spirit of Madison's honorable words. Thank you for your efforts in making congressional documents available on the Internet.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Conservative Union
American Society of Newspaper Editors
Common Cause
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility
Consumer Project on Technology
Congressional Accountability Project
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Citizens Communications Lobby
National Newspaper Association
National Taxpayers Union
NetAction
OMB Watch
Project on Government Oversight
Public Citizen
Radio-Television News Directors Association
Reform Party of the United States
Taxpayers for Common Sense
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (USPIRG)

Congressional Accountability Project
1611 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite #3A
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 296-2787
fax (202) 833-2406

February 9, 1999

The Honorable Christopher Shays
1502 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shays:

We strongly endorse your legislation to put Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports and products on the Internet, including CRS Issue Briefs, and Authorization and Appropriation products.

CRS products are some of the finest research prepared by the federal government. They are a precious source of government information on a huge range of topics. Citizens, scholars, journalists, librarians, businesses, and many others have long wanted access to CRS reports via the Internet.
We believe that taxpayers ought to be able to read the research that we pay for. But citizens cannot obtain most CRS products directly. Instead, we must purchase them from private vendors, or engage in the burdensome and time-consuming process of requesting a member of Congress to send CRS products to us. Often, citizens must wait for weeks or even months before such a request is filled. This barrier to obtaining CRS products serves no useful purpose, and damages citizens' ability to participate in the congressional legislative process.

James Madison aptly described why the public needs reliable, accurate information about current events: "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Your bill falls squarely within the spirit of Madison's honorable words. Thanks for your efforts in making CRS products available on the Internet.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Conservative Union
American Society of Newspaper Editors
Common Cause
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility
Consumer Project on Technology
Congressional Accountability Project
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
League of Women Voters of the U.S.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Citizens Communications Lobby
National Newspaper Association
National Taxpayers Union
NetAction
OMB Watch
Project on Government Oversight
Public Citizen
Radio-Television News Directors Association
Reform Party of the United States
Taxpayers for Common Sense
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (USPIRG)