

# Researching Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Resources for Congressional Staff

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Head Reference Services

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## **Summary**

This report is designed to introduce congressional staff to selected governmental and nongovernmental sources that are useful in tracking and obtaining information on federal legislation and regulations. It includes governmental sources, such as Congress.gov, the Government Publishing Office's Federal Digital System (FDsys), and U.S. Senate and House websites. Nongovernmental or commercial sources include resources such as HeinOnline and the Congressional Quarterly (CQ) websites. The report also highlights classes offered by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the Law Library of Congress.

This report will be updated as new information is available.

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# Researching Current Federal Legislation

Researching current federal legislation includes identifying action on pending or passed legislation and locating the relevant documents or text. Analysis, discussion, or media coverage of pending or passed legislation also has a role in the legislative research process. Such research may be accomplished by using governmental, congressional, or commercial services.

## Governmental Sources

### **Congress.gov**

<http://www.congress.gov>

Congress.gov provides Members of Congress, their staff, and the general public access to a wide variety of information, including bill summary and status, bill text, committee referrals and committee reports, sponsors and cosponsors, and *Congressional Record* text.

A version of a bill or resolution will typically appear in Congress.gov a day or two after it is introduced or has had action on the floor of the House or Senate. The text of bills is published by the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and sent to the Library of Congress at various times throughout the day.

For an estimate as to when GPO will publish a bill, contact the

- GPO Congressional Desk for House bill versions at 202-512-0224 or
- Senate Bill Clerk for Senate bill versions at 202-224-2118.

Note that the bill number may not determine the chamber for the most recent version—for example, “H.R. 1792 RS” is a Senate version (RS=Reported in Senate) of a House bill. Guidance in the use of Congress.gov is available at <http://www.congress.gov/help>.

The Congress.gov Alert Service is available to anyone who wants to obtain email alerts regarding action on bills and amendments for subjects that they identify. Once established, alerts run automatically and generate emails Monday through Friday when there is new information. To learn more about alerts and how to create them, a brief video is available at <https://www.congress.gov/help/tips/managing-alerts>.

### **Congressional Record**

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CREC> and available via Congress.gov at <http://www.congress.gov>.

Action on legislation passed or pending in the current Congress, and its status in the legislative process, is reported in the *Congressional Record*. The *Record* also contains the edited transcript of activities on the floor of the House and Senate. It is the primary source for the text of floor debates and the official source for recorded votes. The *Record* is published each day that one or both chambers are in session, except in instances when two or more consecutive issues are printed together.

The *Record*’s Daily Digest section summarizes action in each chamber and identifies committee hearings, new public laws, official foreign travel reports, procedural agreements, Senate unanimous consent agreements, treaties and nominations actions, and committee meetings scheduled for the next legislative day.

Indexes for the *Record* are issued twice a month. The Subject Index section can be used to identify bills by topic, and the History of Bills and Resolutions section tracks action on all legislation.

***Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents***

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPD>

Published by the Office of the Federal Register, the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* (and its predecessor, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*) provides the dates on which the President signed or vetoed legislation. It also contains transcripts of presidential messages to Congress, executive orders, press releases, nominations submitted to the Senate, speeches, and other material released by the White House.

**govinfo.gov**

<https://govinfo.gov>

The Government Publishing Office launched govinfo.gov as a beta website in February 2016. It is still a work in progress and will eventually replace GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys). It provides free public access to the full text of official publications from the three branches of the federal government. Several govinfo tutorials and handouts are available on the site. Recorded webinars are also available through the Federal Depository Library Program Academy at <https://fdlp.gov/about-the-fdlp/fdlp-academy>.

**GPO Federal Digital System**

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>

GPO's FDsys is a website that enables GPO to display and deliver information from all branches of the U.S. government. Materials available on FDsys include the full text of bills, the *Congressional Record* and the *Congressional Record Index* (which includes a History of Bills and Resolutions section), congressional calendars, public laws, selected congressional reports and documents, the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents*, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, the *Federal Register*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations*. Coverage varies for each of these publications. FDsys will eventually be replaced by govinfo.gov (see entry above).

**Legislative Information System**

<http://www.lis.gov>

The predecessor to Congress.gov, the Legislative Information System (LIS), is still available but only to congressional staff. It is as current as Congress.gov and will continue to be available while further developments and improvements are made to Congress.gov. A specific date has not been set but plans are to retire LIS near the end of 2018. Alerts that previously existed in LIS must be recreated in Congress.gov.

**U.S. House of Representatives Home Page**

<http://www.house.gov>

This website provides information from and about the House of Representatives, including the following:

- Congressional calendars  
House calendars (104<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1995-present)  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.actioncollectionCode=CAL>
- House committee activities  
<http://www.house.gov/committees>

- Directory of Representatives by state, district, and name  
<http://www.house.gov/representatives>
- The chamber's leadership  
<http://www.house.gov/leadership>
- House roll call votes starting with the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress, second session (1990)  
<http://clerk.house.gov/legislative/legvotes.aspx>
- Brief descriptions of floor proceedings when the House is in session  
<http://clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.aspx>

### **U.S. Senate Home Page**

<http://www.senate.gov>

This website offers legislative materials from and about the Senate, including the following:

- Congressional calendars  
Senate calendars (104<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1995-present)  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/calendars.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/calendars.htm)
- Background information on and links to materials on the legislative process, including a “How a Bill Becomes a Law” flowchart  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/process.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/d_three_sections_with_teasers/process.htm)
- Senate roll call votes starting with the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989-1990)  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/votes.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a_three_sections_with_teasers/votes.htm)
- The chamber's leadership  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/senators/a\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/leadership.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/senators/a_three_sections_with_teasers/leadership.htm)
- Descriptions of the Senate committee system and of individual committees  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/committees/d\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/committees\\_home.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/committees/d_three_sections_with_teasers/committees_home.htm)
- Directories of Senators by name, state, class (term expiration date), and party  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)
- Glossary of common legislative terms  
[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/reference/b\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/glossary.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/reference/b_three_sections_with_teasers/glossary.htm)

### **Capitol Hill Resource Centers**

#### **House Documents Room**

<http://clerk.house.gov/legislative/housedoc.aspx>

The House documents website provides links to sources for electronic copies of congressional bills, resolutions, and committee reports via the House Library and GPO's govinfo.gov.

Cannon House Office Building 106

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Phone: /redacted /.

A weekly compilation of measures that may be considered on the House floor is available from the Office of the Clerk at <http://docs.house.gov>.

### **House Legislative Resource Center**

[http://clerk.house.gov/about/offices\\_Lrc.aspx](http://clerk.house.gov/about/offices_Lrc.aspx)

The Legislative Resource Center (LRC) provides centralized access to all published documents originating in and produced by the House and its committees, the historical records of the House since 1792, and legislative and legal reference resources. Congressional staff can retrieve legislative information and records of the House for congressional offices and the public by contacting the LRC.

Cannon House Office Building 135  
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Phone: /redacted /

### **House Library**

<http://library.clerk.house.gov>

The House Library provides legislative, legal, and general reference services to Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the public. Library staff conducts monthly classes on a variety of topics including how to access and use online resources. The reading room has reference materials and computers on which one may access subscription databases; tours may be arranged upon request. A House Library Portal is available for access by House staff only at <http://library.house.gov>.

Cannon House Office Building 263  
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Phone: /redacted /

### **Senate Library**

<http://webster.senate.gov/library> (Not a public access site)

The Senate Library serves present and former Senators, Member and committee staff, Senate leadership, and Senate officers. The Library provides legislative, historic, legal, business, and general reference materials and research services. The Senate Library has a reading room, study carrels, computers, and a scanning and microform center; tours are available upon request.

Senate Russell Office Building B-15  
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday or as long as the Senate is in session  
Phone: /redacted /

### **Senate Printing and Documents Service**

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/common/generic/Doc\\_Room.htm](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/common/generic/Doc_Room.htm)

The Senate Documents Room provides copies of bills, reports, Senate documents, and laws. Contact information is as follows:

Hart Senate Building Office B-04  
9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Phone: /redacted / (availability inquiries only)  
Fax: /redacted /  
E-mail: [orders@sec.senate.gov](mailto:orders@sec.senate.gov)

## Schedule and Legislative Update Services

### Daily Schedule Information

Both Senate parties and the House Democratic Party provide daily recorded messages about floor proceedings when they are in session. The House Republican Party no longer has a recording. Call the following numbers for cloakroom recordings:

Senate at /redacted / (Democratic) or /redacted / (Republican)

House at /redacted / (Democratic)

### Public Laws Update Service

Information on new public law numbers assigned to recently enacted laws is available from the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of the Federal Register Public Laws listserv at <https://listserv.gsa.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A2=ind1511&L=PUBLAWS-L&P=65>. This service is strictly for email notification of new laws. Select "Subscribe" under "Options" in the right-hand column. The text of laws is not available through this service. Text is available, on an irregular basis, from GPO's FDsys at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=PLAW>.

### White House Executive Clerk's Office

By way of a recorded message, the Office of the Executive Clerk at the White House provides dates for the following information: presidential signings or vetoes of recent legislation, presidential messages, executive orders, and other official presidential action. If the desired information is not in the taped message, callers can stay on the line to speak with a staffer. The recorded message is available at /redacted /.

## Nongovernmental Sources of Federal Legislation

The inclusion of a web-based product under this heading does not imply CRS endorsement.

### Bloomberg Government

<https://www.bgov.com>

A subscription database that provides analysis as well as content from news sources worldwide. Services include alerts; transcripts; searchable legislation; congressional, state, and district profiles; and more. Coverage for most historical data begins with the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-2006).

### CQ.com (Plus.CQ.com)

<http://www.cq.com>

Plus.CQ.com is an updated version of the CQ.com (*Congressional Quarterly*) subscription database that provides bill texts, summaries, tracking, and analysis. Among its other features are forecasts of major pending bills; versions of bills; links to related bills; roll-call votes; legislative histories; floor and committee schedules; detailed committee coverage; texts of committee reports; transcripts of witnesses' testimony; and publications such as *CQ Weekly*, *CQ Almanac*, the *Congressional Record*, and *Roll Call*. Time spans covered vary by the category of information. The latest addition to the product is a collection of CQ markup reports on each Member's profile page. The markups are only for the current Congress and appear to be from each committee on which a Member serves. Plus.CQ.com is available in all Senate offices and the House Library.



### **GovTrack**

<http://www.govtrack.us>

GovTrack is a free service that can help determine the status of U.S. federal legislation, voting records for the Senate and the House of Representatives, information on Members of Congress, congressional district maps, and the status of legislation. State legislative information is also available. Federal legislation may be searched and browsed back to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1973-1974) and the text of legislation is available as far back as the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress (1999-2000). GovTrack also provides useful bill statistics, such as bill counts by Congress, from the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress (1979-1980) to the present. Legislation can be searched by dockets and by subjects, and a bill search and track feature is available. GovTrack's core mission is to make legislative data freely available so that others can build new tools to promote civic education and engagement.

### **HeinOnline**

<http://heinonline.org>

HeinOnline is a searchable digital library of current and historical materials, including some congressional documents back to 1789. The database also includes legal journals, texts, cases, statutes, regulations, presidential materials, and treaties, as well as international and foreign legal journals, cases, and materials. Many are full text in the original page-image (PDF) format. HeinOnline is available only to subscribers.

### **National Journal**

<https://www.nationaljournal.com>

The National Journal Group covers the current political environment and emerging policy trends. Its information products include *National Journal*, *The Hotline*, *NationalJournal.com*, *The Almanac of American Politics*, *National Journal Daily*, and *National Journal On Air*. All House and Senate offices have online access to *NationalJournal.com*, *National Journal Daily*, and *National Journal Hotline*, as well as to the print versions of *National Journal Daily* and the weekly *National Journal Magazine*.

### **ProQuest Congressional**

<http://congressional.proquest.com>

This database contains detailed abstracts and links to the full text of many congressional and federal documents, such as the *Congressional Record*, congressional hearing transcripts, committee prints, and legislative histories. Length of coverage varies depending on the category of information. This is the enhanced web-based counterpart of the *CIS/Index to Publications of the United States Congress*. This resource is fee-based and accessible only to subscribers. ProQuest Congressional is available to all House and Senate offices.

### **Quorum**

<http://quorum.us>

Quorum provides detailed analytics on everything related to Congress and its Members. Launched in January 2015, Quorum provides federal level tracking for bills, votes, amendments, floor statements, press releases, Dear Colleague Letters, and a full suite of social media posts as far back as the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989). There is a major focus on grassroots engagement tools that enable Members, advocates, legislative professionals, companies, and citizens to influence the legislative process. Quorum also allows users to track issues and to search for and monitor legislation and dialogue across all 50 states. The product uses ESRI geospatial technology and Census data in a legislative platform to provide unique characteristics of each congressional district. Many reviewers and users have dubbed Quorum "Google for Congress." This is a fee-based subscription service.

**VoteView**

<https://voteview.com>

Hosted by UCLA's Department of Political Science and Social Computing, Voteview allows users to view every congressional roll call vote since 1789 on a map of the United States and on a liberal-conservative ideological map, including information about the ideological positions of voting Senators and Representatives. It also provides Geographic Information System (GIS) boundaries for congressional districts back to 1789. This beta product has a "geography" tab that allows the user to enter an address or ZIP Code to create a historical list of all Members who represented that district.

This is an update to a DOS-based product developed by Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal at Carnegie-Mellon University between 1989 and 1992.

## Researching Current Federal Regulations

Regulations are issued by federal departments and agencies under the authority delegated to them by federal law.<sup>1</sup> Final rules are printed in the *Federal Register (FR)* and later codified by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)*.

### Governmental Sources

***Code of Federal Regulations***

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionCfr.action?collectionCode=CFR>

The *CFR* codifies final rules having general applicability and legal effect that first appeared in the *Federal Register*. *CFR* titles are arranged by subject, and the entire *CFR* is revised annually (one-quarter of the titles at a time) in January, April, July, and October. Because the annual revision incorporates new regulations and drops superseded ones, the *CFR* reflects regulations in effect at the time of printing. An index volume that includes tables accompanies the set. By using the *FR* and *CFR* sources, with their many finding aids, it is possible to identify existing regulations in a subject area or those that pertain to a specific title and section of the *United States Code*, identify regulations issued pursuant to a specific public law, and find proposed regulations that are not yet final.<sup>2</sup>

The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, <https://www.ecfr.gov> (e-CFR), is the current, updated version of the *CFR*. However, it is not an official legal edition of the *CFR*, but an unofficial editorial compilation of *CFR* material and *FR* amendments produced by the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of the Federal Register (OFR) and GPO. The OFR updates the e-CFR daily.

***Federal Register***

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR>

The *FR* contains the official announcement of regulations and legal notices issued by federal departments and agencies. It includes proposed and final federal regulations having general

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see CRS Report RL32240, *The Federal Rulemaking Process: An Overview*, coordinated by (name redacted) .

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see archived CRS Report RL30812, *Federal Statutes: What They Are and Where to Find Them*, by (name redacted) .

applicability and legal effect; executive orders and presidential proclamations; documents required to be published by an act of Congress; and other federal documents of public interest. Daily and monthly indexes and an accompanying publication, “List of *CFR* Sections Affected,” aid in its use.

The *FR* also publishes the “Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions” twice yearly (usually in April and October). This document provides advance notice of proposed rulemaking by listing all rules and proposed rules that more than 60 federal departments, agencies, and commissions expect to issue during the next six months. Regulations that concern the military or foreign affairs, or that deal with agency personnel, organization, or management matters, are excluded. The agenda is available online from 1994 through the present.

**govinfo.gov**

<https://govinfo.gov>

See entry under “Researching Current Federal Legislation—Governmental Sources” above.

**GPO Federal Digital System**

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>

See entry under “Researching Current Federal Legislation—Governmental Sources” above.

**RegInfo.gov**

<http://www.reginfo.gov>

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Services Administration (GSA) produce the RegInfo.gov website, which provides a list of all rules undergoing Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) E.O. 12866 regulatory review. Updated daily, it also provides a list of all rules on which review has been concluded in the past 30 days, lists and statistics on regulatory reviews dating back to 1981, and letters to agencies regarding regulatory actions.

**Regulations.gov**

<http://www.regulations.gov>

This website was launched to enhance public participation in federal regulatory activities. Users can search Proposed Rules and Regulations from more than 176 federal departments and agencies along with notices from the *Federal Register*. Many proposed regulations include a link to a comment form that readers can complete and submit to the appropriate department or agency. Regulations.gov is updated each business day with proposed new regulations. Among the database’s search options are keyword or subject, department or agency name, regulations published today, comments due today, open regulations or comments by publication dates, docket ID, Regulation Identifier Number, or *CFR* citations.

**White House Executive Clerk’s Office**

See entry under “Schedule and Legislative Update Services” above.

## Nongovernmental Sources of Federal Regulations

The inclusion of a web-based product under this heading does not imply CRS endorsement.

***BNAs Daily Report for Executives***

<http://dailyreport.bna.com>

This online report covers a broad spectrum of issues, providing news reports and links to the full text of key documents, such as proposed and final legislation, regulations, testimony, and fact sheets summarizing major issues. Available in electronic and print formats to paid subscribers.

***Federal Regulatory Directory***

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/federal-regulatory-directory/book245062>

This link leads to product description and purchase information for the *Federal Regulatory Directory*, which provides profiles of the mandates and operations of more than 100 federal regulatory agencies and is published every two years. Each profile gives a brief history and description of the agency and its regulatory oversight responsibilities and lists key staff, information sources, legislation, and regional offices. It also provides an overview of the federal regulatory process. Other aids are the full texts of key regulatory acts and executive orders, a guide to using the *Federal Register* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*, and subject and name indexes.

**HeinOnline**

<http://heinonline.org>

See entry under “Nongovernmental Sources of Federal Legislation” above.

## Media Sources

Print and web-based media sources provide useful background information on the status of federal legislation and regulations through their reporting, political analysis, and editorial perspectives. The inclusion of a web-based product under this heading does not imply CRS endorsement of the product.

**CQ.com (Plus.CQ.com)**

<http://www.cq.com>

In addition to the legislative analysis and tracking role of this fee-based subscription service, CQ.com provides a daily news feature, full-text of *CQ Weekly*, *Budget Tracker* for articles on appropriations bills and continuing resolutions, and a variety of CQ specialty news sources, including *CQ Healthbeat*. RSS news feeds are also provided as news occurs.

***CQ Roll Call***

<http://www.rollcall.com>

*CQ Roll Call*, a daily newspaper, has been covering Capitol Hill news since 1955. It is free to congressional staff, both online and in print.

**C-SPAN.org**

<http://www.c-span.org>

C-SPAN is a private, nonprofit company, created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service. Its mission is to provide public access to the political process.

***The Hill***

<http://www.thehill.com>

*The Hill* is a newspaper for and about Congress. It is published Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday when Congress is in session and Wednesday only when Congress is out of session.

***Politico***

<http://www.politico.com>

Politico.com covers political news with a focus on national politics, Congress, Capitol Hill, the presidential elections, lobbying, and advocacy.

***Politico Pro***

<https://www.politicopro.com>

This premium subscription service goes beyond the standard political news coverage of its sister publication, *Politico*. According to its website, *Politico Pro* was launched in June 2010 to provide “access to intense *Politico*-style coverage of Washington’s most important policy issues.” It currently covers 14 issue areas: agriculture, budgets & appropriations brief, campaigns, cybersecurity, defense, education, eHealth, energy, Europe brief, financial services, health care, employment and immigration, technology, trade, transportation, and tax.

## CRS Resources

### Classes at CRS

#### **Introduction to Legislative Research**

This two-and-a-half-hour seminar, offered six times a year by the Law Library of Congress and CRS, is designed for those with no legal research experience. A Law Library specialist will discuss the print and electronic sources used when conducting federal legislative research. Participants will be shown where and how to use the various print and electronic resources containing bills, enacted laws, and codified laws. In addition to covering the official and unofficial print publications, the seminar will demonstrate the relative strengths and substantive content of various Internet resources, such as Congress.gov, GPO’s govinfo.gov, and others.

This program is open to interns who have attended the CRS Intern Orientation. To register, go to <http://www.crs.gov/Events/category/3>, and select the “Register” tab.

#### **Federal Legislative History Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources**

This two-and-a-half-hour seminar is offered four times a year. It examines methods of identifying and locating electronic and print versions of legislative history resources, including committee reports, hearings, debates, and other relevant materials. Research techniques are illustrated using a case study. The seminar emphasizes both Internet and traditional print research techniques. It is jointly sponsored by the Law Library of Congress and CRS.

A Law Library specialist will discuss various electronic and print publications containing federal laws and how to research the legislative history of those laws. Participants will be shown where and how to locate electronic and print versions of congressional documents, including bills, resolutions, committee reports and prints, and floor debates that are generated in the legislative process. Sources of compiled legislative histories and methods of compiling legislative histories will be covered. Internet sources will be discussed, including Congress.gov and other Library of Congress sites, GPO’s govinfo.gov, various congressional sites, and others. Fee-based databases such as Lexis or Westlaw will not be covered.

This program is open to interns who have attended the CRS Intern Orientation. To register, go to <http://www.crs.gov/Events/category/3>, and select the “Register” tab.

## **Federal Statutory Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources**

This seminar examines methods of identifying and locating print and electronic versions of statutes and conducting research in the *United States Code*. It describes historical sources of federal statutory law and illustrates research techniques using case studies. The Law Library of Congress and the Congressional Research Service jointly sponsor this seminar, which emphasizes both Internet and traditional print research techniques. Knowledge of the *United States Code* and Legislative Procedure is a prerequisite for this program.

A Law Library specialist will discuss electronic and print chronological and topical publications containing federal statutory law, including electronic and print sources of public laws and the *United States Code*. The seminar will cover the organizational principles and features facilitating research, the historical development of federal statutory publications, and the significance of enactment of titles of the *United States Code* into positive law. Internet sources will be discussed, including Congress.gov and other Library of Congress sites, various congressional sites, GPO's govinfo.gov, Cornell's Legal Information Institute site, and others. Fee-based databases such as Lexis or Westlaw will not be covered.

This program is open to interns who have attended the CRS Intern Orientation. To register, go to <http://www.crs.gov/Events/category/3>, and select the "Register" tab.

## **Introduction to Congress Courses**

CRS regularly provides classroom instruction to congressional staff on legislative process and procedure. Two such courses are available to House and Senate staff:

- **Congress: An Introduction to Resources and Procedure.** This is an all-day program designed for those seeking a better understanding of the legislative process and the resources available to monitor it. The program is not open to interns. Attendance at this program is a prerequisite for the Advanced Legislative Process Institute Series (see below). Registration information is available at <http://www.crs.gov/Events/category/4>.
- **Legislative Concepts.** CRS also offers a monthly introductory "Legislative Concepts" class to House staff and interns in the House Learning Center. Information is available on HouseNet at <https://housenet.house.gov/training> under "Training."

## **Advanced Legislative Process Institute**

This Institute builds on the basic procedures and resources provided in "Congress: An Introduction to Resources and Procedure." In-depth sessions describe processes and procedural strategy that are specific to each chamber. Additional information on this class and others can be found at <http://www.crs.gov/> under the "Events" tab.

## **House Advanced Legislative Process Institute Series (HALPS)**

This overview of the "other chamber" includes a description of the Senate's rules and norms, and salient committee and floor procedures, focusing on those that differ from the House. Other discussion will cover the Senate's orientation toward individuals and minorities; its attitude toward and use of committees; its norm of collective scheduling of legislation; its use of motions to proceed, unanimous consent, and time agreements to call up, consider, and amend measures; the role of the presiding officer; holds; filibusters; and invoking cloture. This program is not open to interns. Register at <http://www.crs.gov/Events/category/4>.

## Senate Advanced Legislative Process Institute Series (SALPS)

This overview of the “other chamber” is an introduction to the organization and operation of the House with an emphasis on differences in procedure and their impact on legislation. Please note, registration is separate for each session. Register at <http://www.crs.gov/Events/category/4>. This program is not open to interns.

**Note:** A calendar year listing of CRS classes is not available. The class listings appear on the CRS Events page a few weeks before the scheduled date and when registration is open.

## Selected CRS Reports

Additional information on researching legislation and regulations is provided in the following CRS reports.

CRS Report R43056, *Counting Regulations: An Overview of Rulemaking, Types of Federal Regulations, and Pages in the Federal Register*, by (name redacted).

CRS Report RL32240, *The Federal Rulemaking Process: An Overview*, coordinated by (name redacted).

CRS Report RL30812, *Federal Statutes: What They Are and Where to Find Them*, by (name redacted).

CRS Report 98-309, *House Legislative Procedures: Published Sources of Information*, by (name redacted).

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