

# Federal Legislative History: A Research Guide for Congressional Staff

May 9, 2025



## Federal Legislative History: A Research Guide for Congressional Staff

This report provides an overview of federal legislative history research, the legislative process, and where to find congressional documents. The report also summarizes some of the reasons researchers are interested in legislative history, briefly describes the actions a piece of legislation might undergo during the legislative process, and provides a list of accessible print and electronic resources for congressional staffers.

### **SUMMARY**

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## Introduction

Black's Law Dictionary defines legislative history as "[t]he proceedings leading to the enactment of a statute, including hearings, committee reports, and floor debates."

It also describes one of the primary reasons legal, policy, and legislative researchers investigate the legislative history of a particular piece of legislation: "Legislative history is sometimes recorded so that it can later be used to aid in or influence interpretations of the statute."<sup>2</sup>

However, the purpose of legislative history research is not limited to statutory interpretation. Questions researchers may want to answer through legislative history include

- Which committees and Members were involved?
- How was the legislative language amended as it advanced through the congressional process?
- How did Members vote on proposed amendments and final passage?

To answer these and similar questions, researchers must identify the chronological steps the legislation followed through Congress and the materials that document what happened during each of these steps. This report briefly describes the actions a piece of legislation might undergo during the legislative process and provides information on resources for retrieving legislative history materials.

## The Legislative Process

This report focuses on legislative history research, and therefore does not contain detailed information about the legislative process. However, because a general understanding of the legislative process is helpful when compiling a legislative history, overviews of certain congressional actions are provided. Detailed guides on the legislative process for the House and Senate are available online:

- How Our Laws Are Made, Revised and Updated, by John V. Sullivan Parliamentarian, United States House of Representatives Presented by Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania July 24, 2007 https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CDOC-110hdoc49/pdf/CDOC-110hdoc49.pdf
- Enactment of a Law, by Robert B. Dove Parliamentarian, United States Senate Updated: February 1997 https://www.congress.gov/help/learn-about-the-legislative-process/enactment-of-

In addition, there are a number of Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports on various aspects of the legislative process referenced throughout this report and available on CRS's website at http://www.crs.gov.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Legislative History, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (12th Ed. 2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Leg. Hist., BLACK's. For further analysis of the use of legislative history for the interpretation of statutes, see CRS Report R45153, Statutory Interpretation: Theories, Tools, and Trends, by Valerie C. Brannon.

## **Legislative History Resource Material**

The legislative history resource materials discussed below vary in scope and availability. For example, the Government Publishing Office (GPO) makes resources available through its website, GovInfo, https://www.govinfo.gov/, an online collection of official congressional publications and databases containing texts of legislation, the Congressional Record, House and Senate calendars, committee prints, committee hearings, committee reports, and other material useful for legislative research. However, the information available on these websites is generally limited to more recent Congresses. By contrast, print publications may be more historically complete, but limited to only one type of document or information. For example, the Congressional Record and its predecessor publications, which are available in print going back to 1789, contain information on procedural actions for legislation and transcripts of the proceedings on the House and Senate floor, but do not contain the text of committee hearings.

The references cited below are available online through government sources or in hard copy through CRS or the Law Library of Congress. They are also commonly available at local libraries, law libraries, or federal depository libraries. GPO has a website to assist patrons in finding the nearest depository library, at https://ask.gpo.gov/s/FDLD. References to commercial services that require subscriptions are limited to those available in all congressional offices.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, some stages of the legislative process are more fully documented than others. For example, bills are often debated and amended extensively during their consideration by congressional subcommittees, but these deliberations are not usually transcribed and made widely available. In general, information on subcommittee action is limited to discussion in news accounts or reports from the full committee.

## **Compiled Histories**

In some instances, a legislative history may have already been compiled. There are a few government and commercial sources for compiled legislative histories.

#### **Online Sources**

ProQuest Congressional https://congressional.proquest.com/

ProQuest Congressional, a commercial database, has legislative histories from 1969 to the present. Researchers can find legislative history compilations by keywords in the abstract, bill tracking, bill text, floor votes, public laws, *United States Code* or *Statutes at Large*. Results can be restricted by words in the title of the legislative history or by the Congress.

Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC: Legislative Histories of Selected U.S. Laws https://www.llsdc.org/legislative-histories

The Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC, has aggregated hyperlinks to approximately 150 freely available compiled legislative histories, primarily sourced from government agency websites and academic databases. Results are listed in order by both Popular Name and Public Law Number.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Some additional subscription services with legislative information may be available through the Congressional Research Service, the Law Library of Congress, or the House and Senate Libraries. For additional information, see CRS Report R43434, *Policy and Legislative Research for Congressional Staff: Finding Documents, Analysis, News, and Training*, by Sarah W. Caldwell, Ellen M. Lechman, and Michele L. Malloy.

#### **Print Sources**

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Legislative History Microfiche. This resource contains the legislative history for most public laws from 1921 to 1980. Reprints from the microfiche may be available from CRS, the Law Library of Congress, or at a federal depository library.

*Committee Prints*. On occasion, committees produce legislative histories of enactments within their jurisdiction. Reprints of published copies of committee prints may be available through CRS, the Library of Congress, or at a federal depository library.

## Legislation

**Bills.** Most legislation introduced by a Member of Congress (i.e., the legislation's sponsor) is introduced as a "bill," the general form used for legislation that will have the force of law if enacted.<sup>4</sup> Bills are numbered sequentially in the order they were introduced. Bills introduced in the Senate are preceded by "S."; those in the House by "H.R." Bills remain pending from the time of introduction until final passage or the final adjournment of a Congress (i.e., the two-year convocation of the House and Senate that begins January 3 following each biennial federal election. Congresses are numbered sequentially. The current Congress, which convened on January 3, 2025, is the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.). Bills not enacted during a Congress "die"; further legislative consideration requires that they be reintroduced in the next Congress.

**Joint Resolutions.** While bills are used for purposes of general legislation, joint resolutions (S.J. Res. or H.J. Res.) are used to propose constitutional amendments and for a variety of special or subordinate purposes, such as continuing appropriations.<sup>5</sup> Except for those proposing constitutional amendments, joint resolutions become law in the same manner as bills.

If a legislative measure receives action, GPO publishes versions of the legislative text as it moves through the various stages of the legislative process. These versions include those marked reported, engrossed, engrossed House/Senate amendment,<sup>6</sup> public print, and enrolled. By comparing different bill or resolution texts, researchers can determine at what stage in the legislative process revisions were made.

#### **Texts of Legislation**

#### **Online Sources**

Congress.gov

https://www.congress.gov/

Congress.gov is available to congressional researchers and the general public, with some content exclusive to congressional staff. Users can browse or search for bill and resolution texts starting with the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989-1990). Congress.gov also contains scanned

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A bill is enacted only if both houses of Congress pass identical versions of it and either the President signs the passed version or, if the President vetoes the bill, two-third majorities of both houses pass the bill again thereby overriding the veto. For more information on steps for a bill to become a law, see CRS Report R42843, *Introduction to the Legislative Process in the U.S. Congress*, by Valerie Heitshusen. For more information on vetoes, see CRS Report RS22188, *Regular Vetoes and Pocket Vetoes: In Brief*, by Meghan M. Stuessy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Simple and concurrent resolutions do not have the force of law and therefore were omitted from this discussion. For additional information on all types of bills and resolutions, see CRS Report R46603, *Bills, Resolutions, Nominations, and Treaties: Characteristics and Examples of Use*, by Jane A. Hudiburg.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For additional information, see CRS Report 98-812, *Amendments Between the Houses: A Brief Overview*, by Elizabeth Rybicki and James V. Saturno.

images of some historical bills and resolutions. Coverage for the House starts with the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress (1799-1800) through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress (1871-1872). For the Senate, coverage is from the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress (1819-1821) through the 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress (1871-1872).

#### GPO GovInfo—Congressional Bills

https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/BILLS

GovInfo enables users to browse or search for bills and resolutions from the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993-1994) forward.

#### **ProQuest Congressional**

https://congressional.proquest.com/

ProQuest Congressional, a commercial database, has congressional bills and resolutions from 1789 to the present. Researchers can search the bills by keyword, abstract, sponsor, or bill number.

#### **Print Sources**

Print versions of bills are available on microfiche or microfilm through the Law Library of Congress (1789-current) and certain federal depository libraries.

#### **Bill History and Status**

At its most fundamental, legislative history tracks congressional action on a piece of legislation and its status within the legislative process. When beginning a legislative history research project, one of the first steps a researcher may want to undertake is locating information on the history of the bill and citations to documents. Through the years, various government and private entities have tracked the history and status of bills.

#### **Online Sources**

Congress.gov

https://www.congress.gov

Congress.gov is available to congressional researchers and the general public, with some content exclusive to congressional staff. The database provides bill summary and status information on bills and resolutions starting from the 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1973-1974) to the present. Additionally, Congress.gov provides some records for the bills and joint resolutions from the 82<sup>nd</sup> to 92<sup>nd</sup> Congresses (1951-1972) that became public or private law.

#### GPO GovInfo—Congressional Calendars

https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CCAL

House and Senate calendars are published periodically during the session by the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate. The calendars provide a list of legislation. In the House calendar, the history and current status of legislation receiving action is summarized. GovInfo contains final House and Senate calendars starting from the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995-1996) to the present.

#### **Print Sources**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See CRS Report 98-437, *Calendars of the House of Representatives*, by Christopher M. Davis; CRS Report 98-429, *The Senate's Calendar of Business*, coordinated by Elizabeth Rybicki; and CRS Report 98-438, *The Senate's Executive Calendar*, coordinated by Elizabeth Rybicki.

Digest of Public General Bills and Resolutions. The Bill Digest, a publication of the Library of Congress from 1936 until 1990, contains summaries and status of legislation.

*House and Senate Calendars*. Published copies of the calendars are available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, or at a federal depository library.

Congressional Information Service (CIS). A commercial service, the CIS Index lists each public law in the Annual Abstracts volume and references publications concerning the law. These references include a list of congressional hearings, reports, documents, and prints back to 1970. The Legislative Histories volume contains the legislative history information on selected public laws, including dates of congressional debate, back to 1970. The CIS Historical Index contains congressional documents from 1789 through 1972.

#### **Committee Action**

Legislation is usually referred to a committee after introduction, according to its subject matter. Often, a committee will further refer the legislation to one of its subcommittees. The subcommittees may request reports from government agencies or departments, hold hearings, mark up the bill (meet to propose changes), and report the legislation to the full committee. The full committee may take similar action, with or without prior subcommittee consideration, and report the legislation to its full chamber (i.e., the House or Senate).

#### Hearings

Hearings provide a committee or subcommittee the opportunity to explore topics or legislation.<sup>8</sup> Hearings may include statements of committee Members and interested parties, as well as the testimony of witnesses. GPO publishes hearings made available to them by committees.

#### **Online Sources**

GPO GovInfo—Congressional Hearings https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/chrg/

GovInfo provides access to selected committee hearings back to the 54<sup>th</sup> Congress (1895-1896).

**ProQuest Congressional** 

https://congressional.proquest.com/

ProQuest Congressional, a commercial database, has scanned PDF images of published committee hearings from 1824 to the present.

CQ.com

https://plus.cq.com/

This fee-based subscription database provides coverage of select committee and subcommittee markup hearings from 2000 to the present and unofficial transcripts for select hearings from 1995 to the present.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For additional information on hearings, see CRS Report 98-317, *Types of Committee Hearings*, by Valerie Heitshusen.

#### **Print Sources**

Print versions of committee hearings are available through CRS and the Law Library of Congress. Individual hearings may be available through a federal depository library.

#### Reports

Most legislation never proceeds through full committee consideration and remains in committee for the remainder of a Congress. However, committees may, by majority vote, report some bills and resolutions for consideration by the entire chamber. The House requires a written report on the legislation, while the Senate does not. These committee reports can be particularly useful documents for legislative history research because they often describe the purpose of the legislation and summarize or explain specific provisions. The report will also give details on the committee's actions, understandings, and conclusions about the legislation. Changes to existing laws, votes on amendments during markups, and subcommittee information are supplemental material to the committee report that may also be useful for legislative history research. If the legislation was considered by a subcommittee, that information may also be covered in the full committee's report. Committee reports are published by GPO. Sometimes, the reports are reproduced in whole or part by commercial publishers.

Committee reports are identified as House Report (H.Rept.) or Senate Report (S.Rept.) and given a number (e.g., is the 31<sup>st</sup> report to the Senate in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress).

#### **Online Sources**

Congress.gov

https://www.congress.gov

Congress.gov is available to congressional researchers and the general public, with some content exclusive to congressional staff. It has committee reports starting from the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995-1996).

GPO GovInfo—Committee Reports

https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CRPT

GovInfo contains committee reports starting from the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995-1996), as well as selected reports from prior Congresses.

**ProQuest Congressional** 

https://congressional.proquest.com/

ProQuest Congressional, a commercial database, has scanned PDF images of committee reports published in the Serial Set (described below) from 1817 to the present.

#### **Print Sources**

Print versions of committee reports are available through CRS and the Law Library of Congress. Individual hearings may be available through a federal depository library.

*The Serial Set*. This serial publication contains House and Senate documents and reports bound by session of Congress beginning in 1817. It is available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and may be available through a federal depository library.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> For a description of other required content for committee reports, see CRS Report R47039, *House Committee Reports: Required Contents*, by Jane A. Hudiburg and Christopher M. Davis, and CRS Report 98-305, *Senate Committee Reports: Required Contents*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

*U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News ("USCCAN").* USCCAN, a commercial service, reprints the major reports and conference report or portions thereof, for most public laws enacted since 1941, along with the text of the public law. This publication is available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and may be in the collection of a federal depository library.

#### **Prints and Documents**

Committee prints and documents can be used to duplicate research papers or annual reports from executive branch agencies of interest to the committee, papers prepared by the committee staff, reports on investigative and oversight hearings and activities, and analytical information on legislation. Some committees use prints for reproducing compilations of laws that come under their legislative jurisdiction. Committee prints are identified as House Print (H. Prt.) or Senate Print (S. Prt.) and given a number (e.g., Senate Print 111-6 is the sixth numbered print for the Senate in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress). Committee documents are identified as House Document (H. Doc.) or Senate Document (S. Doc.) and given a number (e.g., House Document 111-2 is the second numbered document for the House in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress).

#### **Online Sources**

GPO GovInfo—Congressional Committee Prints https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CPRT

GovInfo has House and Senate committee prints starting from the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995-1996), plus select prints from prior Congresses.

GPO GovInfo—Congressional Documents https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CDOC/

GovInfo has Congressional documents starting from the 41<sup>st</sup> Congress (1869), plus select documents from prior Congresses.

ProQuest Congressional

https://congressional.proquest.com/

ProQuest Congressional has committee prints and miscellaneous documents that were published from 1830 to the present. They also have an assortment of House and Senate documents from 1871 to the present.

#### **Print Sources**

Copies of committee prints and documents are available through CRS and the subject collections of the Library of Congress. Individual prints and documents may be available through a federal depository library.

#### Floor Action

Legislation may be brought to the floor of the respective chambers for consideration by the full House or Senate. The length and scope of debate on the floor of Congress (e.g., which amendments, if any, will be considered) are governed by the rules of the respective chambers. For example, in the House, the measure is sometimes considered under the terms of a "special rule," that is, a simple resolution reported by the Committee on Rules, which may be accompanied by a

written report specifying which amendments can be offered on the floor. Votes on amendments<sup>10</sup> and final passage may or may not be in the form of a formal recorded vote, in which the vote of each Member is identified. The debates are published in the *Congressional Record*. Recorded votes, called "roll call votes," are published in the *Congressional Record*, but they can also be found through other sources, such as the Clerk of the House website, the Secretary of the Senate, and commercial publishers.

After legislation is passed by one chamber, it is sent to the other chamber for action, where it is often referred to committee. If the second chamber chooses to consider the legislation and passes it without change, it is submitted to the President.

Remarks on the House or Senate floor can be useful for legislative history research because Members will often speak to the purpose of the legislation, emphasize or clarify certain provisions in the legislation; or raise concerns about the potential impact in their statements. In addition to debate on passage, sponsors and cosponsors may submit introductory remarks and materials on legislation into the *Congressional Record*. These remarks may explain the reasons for, and expected effects of, the legislation.

#### The Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* is the official record of the proceedings and debates of Congress and contains a summary of the daily proceedings of the House and Senate. Predecessor publications for the *Congressional Record* are the *Congressional Globe* (1833-1873), *Register of Debates in Congress* (1825-1837), and *Annals of the Congress of the United States* (1789-1824).

Currently, there are two editions of the *Congressional Record* published by GPO—the daily edition and the permanent edition. The daily edition is published each day Congress is in session and the pages are lettered and numbered by chamber (e.g., Senate pages begin with "S" and House pages begin with "H"). The permanent or "bound" edition is published years later. It is continuously paginated (e.g., the pages are renumbered and the "S" and "H" designations are dropped) and the text may have been edited.

#### **Online Sources**

Congress.gov—Congressional Record https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record

Congress.gov is available to congressional researchers and the general public, with some content exclusive to congressional staff. It has links to the daily edition of the *Congressional Record* starting from the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (1989-1990) and to the bound edition of the *Congressional Record* for the years 1873-1994.

Congress.gov—Debates of Congress

https://www.congress.gov/help/debates-of-congress

Congress.gov also contains the *Debates of Congress* collection, comprised of the following three historical publications: *Annals of Congress* (1789-1824), *Register of Debates* (1824-1837), and the *Congressional Globe* (1833-1873).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> For additional information on the amending process, see CRS Report 98-853, *The Amending Process in the Senate*, by Christopher M. Davis, and CRS Report 98-995, *The Amending Process in the House of Representatives*, by Christopher M. Davis.

GPO GovInfo—Congressional Record, Daily Edition

https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CREC/

GovInfo provides the daily edition of the *Congressional Record* from 1994 to the present. Users can search by keyword, page number, or browse by date of publication.

GPO GovInfo—*Congressional Record*, Bound Edition https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CRECB/

The bound edition of the *Congressional Record* is available through GovInfo for the years 1873 to 2017.

GPO GovInfo—Congressional Record Index https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CRI/

The Congressional Record Index lists all introduced legislation by number. References in the Index are to pages in that year's Congressional Record. Each Congress spans two years and typically is divided into two sessions, with each session conducted during a separate calendar year. Legislation introduced during the first session may also be referred to in the second session of the same Congress. Coverage for the Congressional Record Index through GovInfo online is from 1983 to the present.

#### **ProQuest Congressional**

https://congressional.proquest.com/

ProQuest Congressional has scanned PDF images of the *Congressional Record* and its predecessor publications from 1789 to the present.

#### **Print Sources**

Copies of the *Congressional Record* and its predecessor publications are available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and may be available at a federal depository library.

#### Roll Call Votes

#### **Online Sources**

Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives https://clerk.house.gov/Votes

The House Clerk's website has roll call votes from 1990 to the present.

Secretary of the United States Senate

https://www.senate.gov/legislative/votes\_new.htm

The Secretary of the Senate's website has roll call votes from 1989 to the present.

#### CO.com

https://plus.cq.com

This fee-based subscription database provides searchable roll call votes from the 102<sup>nd</sup> Congress (1991-1992) to the present.

#### **Print Sources**

Congressional Quarterly Almanac. The CQ Almanac, a commercial publication, contains floor roll call votes. It also includes valuable background information as well as references to relevant material on major legislation. CQ Almanac has been published annually since 1945.

These volumes may be available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and in the collection of a local library.

#### **Conference Committee Action**

If there are differences between the House and Senate versions of a piece of legislation, the last chamber to adopt its version may send its language back to the other chamber for further consideration in amended form. The first chamber may take up the amended version, or the two chambers may establish a conference committee to reach agreement on a common version. <sup>11</sup> Each chamber appoints conferees, usually members of the original reporting committees, who may take up only those areas in disagreement. A majority of the Senate conferees and a majority of the House conferees must agree on what to report back to their respective chambers.

Upon reaching agreement, a conference committee usually issues a report (generally printed as a House Report) that contains two parts: the agreed upon text and a joint explanatory statement. The joint explanatory statement in the conference report may discuss the differences between the House and Senate passed language, discuss the reasons certain provisions were chosen over others, and provide additional information on the purpose of the legislation.<sup>12</sup>

If passed by both chambers in identical form, the legislation is sent to the President.

#### **Conference Committee Reports**

Conference committee reports are available in the same formats and sources as regular committee reports. They can also be found in the *Congressional Record*.

#### **Presidential Action**

The President may approve a bill or resolution, veto it, or take no action. If the President signs a bill into law, he may issue a signing statement. If no action is taken, the legislation becomes public law after 10 days (Sundays excepted) unless final adjournment of Congress has occurred, in which case the legislation does not become law (known as a "pocket veto").

If the President vetoes the legislation, Congress may override the veto. <sup>13</sup> Two-thirds of the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the Senate must vote to override the veto. If the two chambers vote to override the veto, the legislation becomes law without the President's signature.

#### **Presidential Signing Statements**

#### **Online Sources**

GovInfo—Compilation of Presidential Documents https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/CPD/

The Compilation of Presidential Documents is the official publication of presidential documents issued by the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> For additional information on conference committees, see CRS Report 98-696, *Resolving Legislative Differences in Congress: Conference Committees and Amendments Between the Houses*, by Elizabeth Rybicki, and CRS Report R41003, *Amendments Between the Houses: Procedural Options and Effects*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> For additional information, see CRS Report 98-382, *Conference Reports and Joint Explanatory Statements*, by Christopher M. Davis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> For more information, see CRS Report RS22654, *Veto Override Procedure in the House and Senate*, by Elizabeth Rybicki.

Federal Register. It consists of the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents and the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents. Of note for legislative history researchers, it contains presidential signing statements. It is available online through GovInfo from 1993 to the present.

#### **Print Sources**

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Published by the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of the Federal Register, these volumes contain public messages, speeches, and statements of the Presidents beginning with President Herbert Hoover (1929) to the present. They are available through CRS, the Library of Congress, and federal depository libraries.

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. Published beginning in 1965 and ending with the January 26, 2009, issue, it contains statements, messages, and other presidential materials released by the White House. It is available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and federal depository libraries.

#### **Public Laws**

The *United States Statutes at Large* contains public and private laws enacted since 1789. GPO publishes the official text of the public and private laws of the United States. Beginning with the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2007-2008), GPO has digitally signed and certified the PDF versions of individual public laws (also called "slip laws") available from its website.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Online Sources**

GPO GovInfo—*United States Statutes at Large* https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/STATUTE

Coverage on GovInfo is from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congress (1789-1791) to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020).

GPO GovInfo—Public and Private Laws https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/PLAW

Coverage on GovInfo is from the 104th Congress (1995-1996) to the present.

Library of Congress Digital Collection: *United States Statutes at Large* https://www.loc.gov/collections/united-states-statutes-at-large

The Library of Congress Digital Collection contains scanned images of the *Statutes at Large* from 1789 through 1951.

#### **Print Sources**

*United States Statutes at Large*. The *Statutes at Large* volumes contain public and private laws enacted since 1789. They are available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and at some federal depository libraries.

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News ("USCCAN"). This commercial service reprints public laws enacted since 1941. This publication is available through CRS, the Law Library of Congress, and may be in the collection of a federal depository library

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> For more information on federal statutes and their various forms, see CRS Report R45190, *From Slip Law to United States Code: A Guide to Federal Statutes for Congressional Offices*, by Laura Deal.

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