

Federal Legislative History: Documents & Sources

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PROCESS	DOCUMENTS	PRINT SOURCES (at SIU)	GOVT. ELECT. SOURCES	COMMERCIAL ELECT. SOURCES
1. IDEA	suggestions, hearings, messages			
2. LEGISLATION DRAFTED	bill (as originally introduced and as amended)	microfiche collection → 96th Cong.–present, 1984–85 (Fiche D-S 0035)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GPO Access → Legislative – Cong. Bills (103rd Cong.–present, 1993-94–present) ■ Thomas (101st Cong.–present, 1989-90–present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LexisNexis Congressional (1989–present) ■ LexisNexis → Fed. Legal – U.S. – Archived Bill Text & Tracking (101st Cong.–present, 1989-90–present) ■ Westlaw → U.S. Federal – Bill Tracking (104th Cong.–present; 1995-96–present)
3. TO COMMITTEE	committee hearings (may occur in either H or S)	<i>CIS Index</i> → CIS (1970–83) or GPO (1983–present) microfiche collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GPO Access → Legislative – Cong. Hearings (105th Cong.–present, selected) ■ Thomas → available through links to committee Web sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LexisNexis Congressional (101st Cong.–present, 1989-90–present) ■ LexisNexis → Legal – Legislation & Politics – U.S. & U.K. – U.S. Congress – Committee Hearing Transcripts (1988 – present, coverage varies) ■ Westlaw → U.S. Federal – Legislative History – U.S. Congressional Testimony (1993–96, selected coverage; 1996 – present, full coverage)
4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	committee report(s) (may occur in either H or S)	<i>CIS Index</i> → CIS (1970–83) or GPO (1983–present) microfiche collections <i>USCCAN</i> (arranged by P.L. No.; selected reports only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GPO Access → Legislative – Cong. Serial Set – Congressional Rpts. (104th Cong.–present, 1994-95–present) ■ Thomas (104th Cong.–present, 1994-95–present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LexisNexis Congressional (1990–present) ■ LexisNexis → Fed. Legal – Leg. Histories & Materials – Committee Reports (101st Cong.–present, 1989-90–present) ■ Westlaw → U.S. Fed. – USCCAN – Leg. Hist. Rpts. (1948–89, selected; 1990–present, complete)
5. FLOOR DEBATE	transcript of debate	<i>Congressional Record</i> (Use “History of Bills and Resolutions” in Index volume to find pages on which debate occurs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GPO Access → Legislative – Cong. Rec. (1994–present) ■ Thomas (101st Cong.–present, 1989-90–present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LexisNexis Congressional → (1985 –present) ■ LexisNexis → Federal Legal – U.S. – Individual Congressional Record Materials (99th Cong. – present, 1985 – present) ■ Westlaw → U.S. Fed. – Legislative History – Congressional Record (99th Cong –present, 1985 –present) ■ HeinOnline → U.S. Congressional Documents → Congressional Record (1873–1920; 1978–2004)
6. RECONCILIATION	conference report	same as 4	same as 4	same as 4
7. PRESIDENTIAL ACTION	presidential message (when signing or vetoing the legislation)	<i>Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GPO Access → Executive – Weekly Compilation of Pres. Documents (1993–Jan. 29, 2009); Daily Compilation of Pres. Documents (Jan. 2009–present) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LexisNexis → Fed. Legal – Exec. Branch Materials – Public Papers of President (1979–present) ■ Westlaw → U.S. Fed. – USCCAN – Pres. Messages & Signing Statements (1986–present, signing statements; 2000–present, messages)