I. Finding Debates and Remarks from Members of Congress

If you want to review the debates and floor statements that occur within Congress, as well as remarks from specific Congressmen, Congressional allows you to search the *Congressional Record* using specific citations or search terms to retrieve this information. The *Congressional Record* is available in two editions: the Daily Edition and the Permanent Edition. The Daily Edition is updated the day after each day Congress is in session. The Permanent Edition is updated at the end of each Congressional session. Therefore, if you are searching for debates and remarks on a recent issue in Congress (within the current Congressional session), you will want to search the Daily Edition as opposed to the Permanent Edition.

A. Searching for Congressional Debates or Remarks Using Citations to the *Congressional Record*

The “Search By Number” tab under the “Congressional Publications” feature also allows you to search the *Congressional Record* through its “Find the Bound *Congressional Record by Citation or Date*” options. Additionally, the “Get A Document” option of the “Daily *Congressional Record* and Rules Search Form” allows you to search for entries in the Daily Edition of the Congressional Record using a citation or date.

- **Find the Bound *Congressional Record* by Citation or Date**

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You can also use the “Search By Number” function to retrieve specifically retrieve documents in the Permanent Edition of the *Congressional Record*. You can search by either Permanent or Daily Edition citation, or by date.⁴

**Congressional Publications**

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- **Congressional Record Permanent Edition by Citation** – Searches the Permanent Edition of the *Congressional Record*, as well as the predecessor publications to the *Congressional Record* (i.e., the *Annals of Congress* (1789-1824), the *Register of Debates* (1824-1837), and the *Congressional Globe* (1824-1837)) using the Permanent Edition citation to the record.⁵

To search the *Congressional Record* Permanent Edition with a Permanent Edition citation, you will first need to decide whether the citation applies to the *Annals of Congress*, the *Register of Debates of Congress*, the *Congressional Globe*, or another predecessor publication.

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Globe, or the Congressional Record. The date you are using to search will determine whether the Congressional Record or one of the predecessor publications should be searched. Enter the volume number in the first box, select the publication from the drop-box, and then enter the page number or range of page numbers in the third box.

**EXAMPLE:** A researcher has determined that Senate activity regarding the Food Quality Protection Act of 1995 can be found in Volume 141, pages 22947-23158 of the Congressional Record. To find this activity, the search created could look as follows.
The search results would look as follows:6

- **Congressional Record Daily Edition by Citation** – Searches the daily version of the Congressional Record, as well as its predecessor publications. The Congressional Record Daily Edition is version of the Congressional Record published each day after Congressional proceedings occur.7

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6 Search results are current as of March 2012.
**EXAMPLE:** The equivalent of the August 10, 1995 information found on pages 22947 through 23158 in Volume 141 of the *Congressional Record* Permanent Edition can be found on page 12113 through 12316 of the *Congressional Record* Daily Edition. Therefore, the search created for the same information in the Daily Edition will look like the one shown below.
The search results retrieved from the above search are shown below.8

- **Congressional Record Permanent and Daily Edition By Date**

Finally, Congressional allows you to search both the Permanent and Daily Editions of the Congressional Record by date to retrieve a document.9 If you do not have a specific volume and page citation to the Congressional Record, but you know the date on which the activity you are researching occurred, you can use this option. To search by date, you will select the month from the drop-down box, enter the date in the second box, and enter the year in the third box.

**EXAMPLE:** To search the Congressional Record Permanent Edition document using the date August 10, 1995, the search created would look as follows:10

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8 Search results are current as of March 2012.
10 Search results are current as of March 2012.
• “Get A Document” Option

The “Get A Document” option of the Daily Congressional Record and Rules Search Form allows you to search for documents from the Daily Edition of the Congressional Record by citation or date. To do so, select “Congressional Record” as the document type and enter the page citation or date that you want to search.

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EXAMPLE: A search of page H1116 of Volume 158 of the Daily Digest of the Congressional Record for information related to the Clean Jobs Act would yield two results.\textsuperscript{12}

Similarly, a search of the \textit{Congressional Record} by the date of the records retrieved in the above search (March 1, 2012) would retrieve the same records retrieved from the

\textsuperscript{12} Search results are current as of March 2012.
last search, plus the additional *Congressional Record* entries (from House and Senate proceedings and Extension of Remarks) for that date.\(^\text{13}\) 

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B. Searching for Congressional Debates and Remarks in the *Congressional Record*

Using Search Terms

An alternative method for searching the *Congressional Record* is to use the **"Congressional Record Only" Search Form.** The benefit of using this search form over searching the *Congressional Record* through the Basic and Advanced Search Forms is

\(^{13}\) Search results are current as of March 2012.
that the *Congressional Record* Only Search Form allows more detailed searches within the *Congressional Record*.\(^\text{14}\) If you want to search only for information in the Daily Edition of the Congressional Record, you can also use the “Keyword Search” option of the Daily *Congressional Record* and Rules Search Form to retrieve Congressional debate and remark information using search terms.

Creating a Search in the Congressional Record Only Search Form

As with the Advanced Search Form, there are three search boxes to use and you can connect the searches entered in each search box with the same connectors and commands, truncation, and wildcard characters.\(^\text{15}\)

Searching Within Segments of the Congressional Record

Some common segments of the Congressional Record that can be searched using the Congressional Record Only Search Form are as follows.\(^\text{16}\)


“All fields except full text” – Searches all available parts of the Congressional Record document, except for the full-text of the document, for the search terms.

“All fields including full text” – Searches all available parts of the Congressional Record document, including the full text of the document, for the search terms.

“Subject” – Searches the Congressional Record for the entries on a specific subject.

“Member of Congress” – Searches the Congressional Record for activity related to the name of a specific Representative or Senator in Congress. Congressional provides a search box to enter the first and last names of the Congressperson.

- Searching Within the Congressional Record or Its Predecessor Publications

You can also limit your search of the Congressional Record by date or by Congressional session. The date restriction options through the Congressional Record Only Search Form are as follows:

![Date restriction options](image)

- [Most recent 2 years]
- [All available dates]
- [Date is...]
- [Date is before...]
- [Date is after...]
- [Date is between...]
- [Most recent year]
- [Most recent 5 years]
- [Most recent 10 years]
- [Most recent 20 years]
Similarly, “Restrict by Congress” allows you to restrict your search to documents published during a specific Congressional session from 1789 to present. To select a Congressional session, click on the drop-down box and highlight the choice.

- **Using Index Terms in the Congressional Record Only Search Form**

  As with the Basic and Advanced Search Forms, you can use Index Terms in your search of the Congressional Record through the Congressional Record Only Search Form.

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In the *Congressional Record* Only Search Form, only subject and geographical Index Terms are available for use.

- **EXAMPLE 1:** A Kentucky historian is interested in locating items in the *Congressional Record* that might show references from Senator Henry Clay to *slavery in the United States*.

  1. Because Senator Henry Clay served in both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate in the years between 1806 and 1852, the historian will want to search all three of the *Congressional Record*'s predecessor publications, which span from 1789 to 1873. The subject of “Slavery” could be used as one part of
the search and Senator Clay’s name could be used as the second. Because Clay died in office in 1852, the historian decides to search for records prior to June 29, 1852, Clay’s date of death.

2. The search yields 267 results.\(^\text{18}\)

\(^{18}\) Search results are current as of March 2012.
3. However, it is important to note that these results will contain both Congressional activity related to slavery in them and references to Senator Henry Clay, but the historian will have to review the results to determine whether each result actually contain references directly from Senator Henry Clay about slavery. As shown in the example below from one of the results retrieved, the references to slavery and the references from Henry Clay both occur on page 425, so this record might be helpful to the historian.¹⁹

¹⁹ Search results are current as of March 2012.
“Keyword Search” Option

The “Keyword Search” option of the Daily Congressional Record and Rules Search Form allows you to search for documents from the Daily Edition of the Congressional Record by search terms. With this search, you have the ability to enter keyword search terms to retrieve documents from the Daily Edition of the Congressional Record and restrict the search for those documents by Speaker on the Floor, or by the date or Congressional session. Again, if you are seeking

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information on a recent Congressional activity, you will want to search the Daily Edition of the *Congressional Record*.

To restrict by the speaker on the floor, you can either enter a last name for the Member of Congress or click the “Look up a Member” option to open a list of Representatives or Senators.

*EXAMPLE:* A researcher seeking Congressional activity from Senator Inouye on the medical condition angioedema during the current (112th) Congressional session could create a search that looks like the following:
The search provides one result, as shown: 22

22 Search results are current as of March 2012.