I. Searching for a Legislative History Using the Popular Name of a Law

If you know the Popular Name of a law, you can use Legislative Insight to find the legislative history of that law and Congressional publications related to that law. For example, many members of the public are familiar with the Fair Housing Act, but may not know the Public Law number or Statutes at Large citation associated with the Act. Using Legislative Insight’s Popular Names of Laws List, you could search for “Fair Housing Act” and find the legislative history of the law.

From the Legislative Insight main page, you can access the Popular Names of Laws List by clicking the link under the search box. This opens an alphabetical list of popular names of laws that you can scroll through. Alternatively, you can enter the Popular Name of the law into the search box and click the magnifying glass to find the law.
Note: Asterisks appear beside the popular names of laws for which the legislative history is available in Legislative Insight.¹

- **EXAMPLE: A user is searching for the Homeland Security Act of 2002.**

1. The user could scroll to the “H’s” in the Popular Names of Laws List. The user may find that there are several versions of an Act referenced (e.g., one for each reauthorization of the Act or for the amendments to an Act), so he would need to review each version separately.

2. By highlighting the appropriate Act, the Popular Name is placed in the search box. The user would then click on the magnifying glass to access the legislative history for the Act.

3. The user may find that there is more than one legislative history listed for a particular law. This is because the legislative history for one law may reference other laws in some way. The Results title will tell the user which legislative history corresponds to the law he is researching.²

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Search results obtained from the Popular Names of Laws List can be refined through a full-text search by entering search terms in the text box above the results.

2 Search results are current as of March 2012.