I. Working with a Retrieved Legislative History

Because Legislative Insight focuses on the legislative history for a particular law, it is also helpful to understand what information Legislative Insight provides within its legislative histories. In Legislative Insight, the legislative history for each piece of legislation is divided into separate categories of documents comprising the legislative history. As you can see, the legislative history for a bill provides options for changing the order of documents in the legislative history, citation information, a summary of the legislation, subject terms describing the act, and the Congressional publications that are part of the legislative history (e.g., bills, entries from the Congressional Record, hearings, etc.). A portion of a sample legislative history through Legislative Insight is shown below.
Note that each legislative history is likely to include references to bills proposed in earlier Congressional sessions, as it may take many Congressional sessions to successfully pass a piece of legislation. Additionally, Legislative Insight allows you to change the display for a legislative history so that it can be viewed in chronological order or sorted by publication type.

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Additionally, each part of a legislative history is hyperlinked to the appropriate documents so that additional review can be done quickly.

A. Searching a Legislative History with Search Terms

Once you have retrieved a specific legislative history, you can enter search terms to search for specific terms within the legislative history displayed or to search for specific search terms in the full-text of the publications associated with the legislative history.

**EXAMPLE:** To search the legislative history display for the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act of 1997 for the word “stamps,” enter the word “stamps” in the “Find terms on this page” box. This will show you the number of times the search term is located in the legislative history display page, as well as highlight the location of each term on the display, as shown below:

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2 Search results are current as of March 2012.
Alternatively, to search the publications associated the legislative history for the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act of the 1997 for the word “stamps,” enter the word in the “Find terms in full text publications” box. This will provide PDF links to each full-text publication containing the word “stamps” for easy review, as shown below.³

³ Search results are current as of March 2012.
B. Excluding Documents from A Legislative History

You can omit certain types of Congressional publications from a legislative history by using the Publication Filter, as shown below. This option helps you focus on specific publications within your legislative history.
For more detailed information about using this option, please consult our ProQuest Legislative Insight Advanced Research Guide.