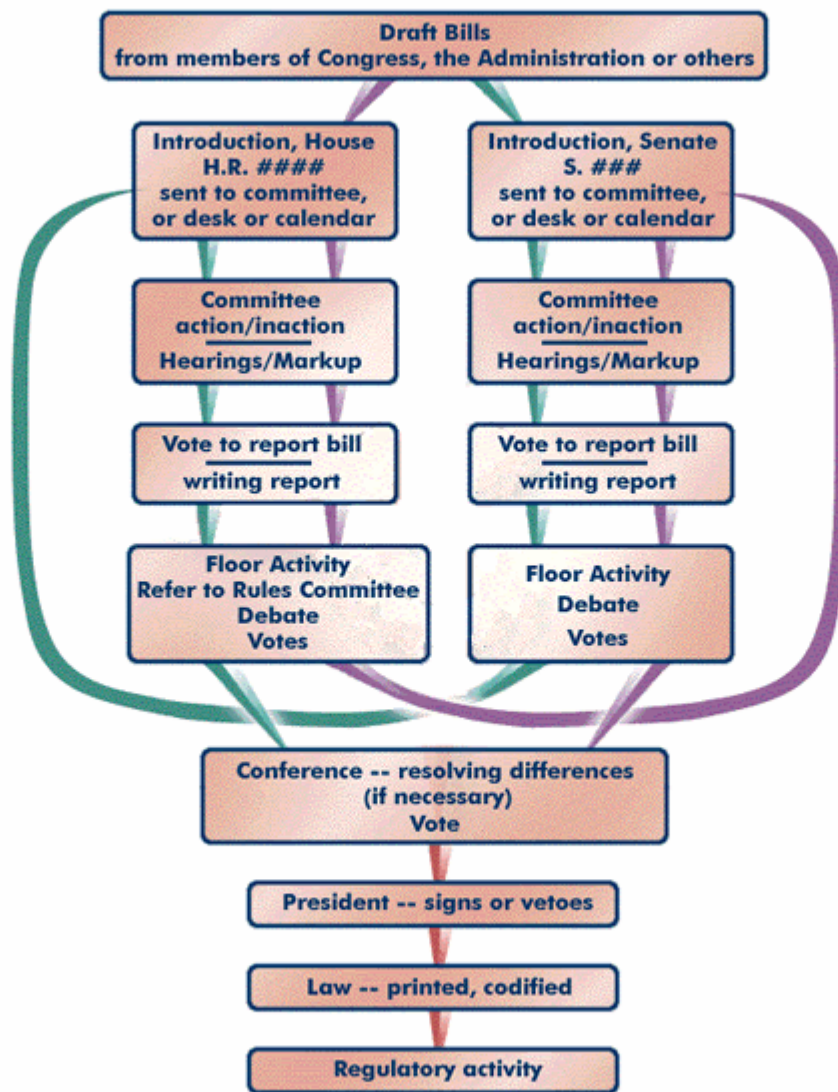


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Coleman Karesh Law Library
USC School of Law
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First, Understand the Process

- THOMAS: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
 - Includes links for [House](#) “How Our Laws are Made” & [Senate](#) “Enactment of a Law”
- GPO Access:
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legislative.html>
 - Links to the [House Rules & Manual](#) and the [Senate Manual](#)
- LexisNexis Congressional
 - [Help Toolbox](#)
- Glossary of terms
 - Senate Virtual Reference Desk: <http://www.senate.gov>
 - CapitolNet: <http://www.thecapitol.net/glossary/>

low is a flowchart illustrating the process by which a bill becomes a law. Click a box to view information on that step, including tips related to your online search.



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What is a legislative history?

- A collection of documents leading to the passage of a particular Act.
 - Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - USA Patriot Act of 2001
 - USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004
 - Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

Why Research Legislative History?

- To determine legislative intent.
 - Statute is ambiguous
 - Courts have not addressed the issue
 - Or they have, but they disagree

QUESTIONS



1. What Documents?
2. Where are they?
3. Has someone compiled them for me?



What Documents?

- Bills introduced in House & Senate
- Committee Hearings
 - transcripts of testimony & statements
- Committee Documents, Reports & Prints
- Congressional Record
 - transcripts of debates and statements on floor of Congress
- Presidential Signing Statements
 - Set tone & policy (not law)



Where are they?

Bills

- Voting Rights Act of 1965: [S1564](#)
- USA Patriot Act: [H.R. 3162](#)
- USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 [H.R. 3199](#)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act: [H.R. 1350](#)
- Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993: [H.R. 1](#)

Bills

- CIS Print Index-1st floor- (1970--)
 - Microform-1st floor-1933-88 (73rd -100th)
 - Drawers 60-69
- [LexisNexis Congressional](#)
 - CIS Index Online (1970--)
 - Bills & Laws-full text (1989--)
 - Keyword
 - Document
- [Thomas](#) (1989--)
- [GPO Access](#) (1993--)
- Westlaw (1995–) & LexisNexis (1989–)



**CIS Index, Abstracts
&
Legislative Histories**

Committee Hearings

- Transcripts of testimony & prepared statements before Congressional Committees
 - CIS Print Index (1970--)
 - Microform-Year & CIS # (Drawer 69—119+)
 - [LexisNexis Congressional](#)
 - CIS Index Online (1970--)
 - Full-text of testimony & statements (1988--)
 - Basic Search, Advanced Search, Search by Number
 - [GPO Access](#) (1995--)
 - Westlaw (1996--) & LexisNexis (varies)

Committee Hearings

- Committee Websites
 - Senate [Committee on the Judiciary](#)
- Subcommittee Websites
 - [The Constitution](#)

Committee Hearings

- Listen to Hearings
 - C-Span
 - Streaming video of committee hearings
 - <http://www.c-span.org/>
 - Capitol Hearings
 - Live Audio of Senate Committee Hearings
 - <http://www.capitolhearings.org/>

Committee Reports, Documents & Prints-Print

- Include:
 - reasons for recommending bill
 - analysis of each section of the bill
 - explanations for compromise provisions
- CIS Print Index- (1970--)^{1st} floor
 - Microform-Year & CIS # (Drawer 69—119+)
- USCCAN-Print-^{1st} floor & Westlaw (1948--)
 - Selected Reports

Committee Reports, Documents & Prints-Online

- [LexisNexis Congressional](#)
 - Index & Summary of Documents, Reports & Prints (1970--)
 - Full-text House & Senate Committee Documents (1995--)
 - Full-text House & Senate Committee Reports (1989--)
 - Full-text Selected Committee Prints (1993--)
 - Basic Search, Advanced Search, Search by Number

Committee Reports, Documents & Prints-Online

- Thomas: [Committee Reports](#) (1995--)
- GPO Access: [Documents](#), [Reports](#) (1995--), [Prints](#) (1997---) & [Conference Reports](#) (109th Congress---)
- Westlaw (1990-- & USCCAN)
- LexisNexis (same as Congressional)

Earlier Congressional Documents

- U.S. Serial Set Index-1789-1969
 - Microform
 - 1st floor-1789-1890 (15th -50th Congress)
 - Drawers 4-8
 - 1890-1970-Gov Docs library-Thomas Cooper
 - Check Catalog for Serial Set Numbers
- LexisNexis Congressional
 - Entire [Serial set](#) digitized (1789-present)

Congressional Record-Print

- Statements by legislators
 - transcripts of floor debates & prepared statements

The Congressional Record-Print

- Current daily edition paperbacks & Indexes-1st floor
- Bound permanent edition & Indexes (1873 --2001)—4th Floor
- Microform-1st floor
 - 1st-100th Congress (1789-1988)
 - Drawers 19-23 & A51

The Congressional Record-Print

- CIS Print Index- 1st floor
 - Includes CR references by subject (1970---)
- CIS legislative histories volumes
 - Include CR references for that Act
- United States Code Congressional & Administration News (USCCAN)
 - Legislative histories
 - Include dates House & Senate considered the bill

Congressional Record- Online

- LexisNexis Congressional
 - [1985 forward](#)
- Thomas
 - [\(1989 forward\)](#)
- GPO Access
 - [1994 forward](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

1774-1875

- Westlaw & LexisNexis (1985 forward)

Presidential Documents-Print

- **Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents**
 - Signing statements, proclamations, addresses, remarks, etc.
 - Compiled annually in [Title 3](#) of CFR
 - Proclamations, Executive Orders, other documents.
- **Print-1965-2000**
 - (2nd floor)((J80.A284)
- **Westlaw & LexisNexis**

Presidential Documents-Online

- Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents
- Online
 - GPO Access: [1993-forward](#)
 - Hein Online: [1965-forward](#)

March 13, 2006 Signing Statement: [USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005](#)

ABA Signing Statements Task Force
[Report](#)

Public Papers of the President

- Papers & speeches
- Print
 - 1929 forward (2nd floor)(J80 .A283)
 - Except FDR-Thomas Cooper Library

Public Papers of the President

- Online
 - HeinOnline
 - [Public Papers](#) & [FDR](#)
 - GPO Access: [1991-forward](#)
 - Whitehouse website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
 - Major speeches, State of the Union, executive orders, proclamations, radio addresses
 - LexisNexis (Executive Materials)



Has someone
compiled them for me?

Locate the Act's Public Law Number

USA Patriot Act

Pub. L. No.107-56

USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005

Pub. L. 109-177

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Pub. L. No. 89-110

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004

Pub. L. No. 108-446

Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

Pub. L. No. 103-3

Public Law Number

- Popular Name Table
 - U.S.C.A./U.S.C.S
 - Print
 - Westlaw/LexisNexis
 - [Cornell's LII](#) (unannotated U.S.C. from House)

Public Law Number

- History notes at the end of a Statute
 - U.S.C.A./U.S.C.S
 - Print
 - Westlaw/LexisNexis
 - Cornell's LII
 - Notes
 - Examples: [42 U.S.C. § 1973](#) / [29 U.S.C. § 2601](#)

United States Statutes at Large



- Public & Private Slip Laws in chronological order by session
- Print
 - 1789-2004 (updated via USCCAN)
 - 1st floor between U.S.C.S. & CIS
 - Bill # on first page of Public Law
 - List of Bills Enacted into Public Law

United States Statutes at Large

- Online
 - GPO Access
 - Statutes at Large: beginning [2003](#)
 - Public & Private Laws: [1995 forward](#)
 - LexisNexis Congressional
 - Public Laws: [1988 forward](#)
 - HeinOnline
 - Statutes at Large: [1789-2004](#)
 - Westlaw & LexisNexis-1789 forward

Resources for Compiled Histories

1. *Online Catalog*
2. *Federal Legislative Histories*
3. *Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories*
4. *Hein Online*
5. *United States Code Congressional & Administrative News (USCCAN)*
6. *Congressional Information Service (CIS)*
7. *Thomas*
8. *Westlaw & LexisNexis*

1. Online Catalog

- Name of the Act
 - [Patriot Act Legislative History](#)

2. Federal Legislative Histories: An Annotated Bibliography and Index to Officially Published Sources

by Bernard D. Reams

- Officially Published Legislative Histories
 - In congressional, executive agency, and special commission sources
 - Prints, inserts in hearings, studies, issue briefs
 - Indexed by Author, Popular Name, P.L. & Bill #
 - 37th (1862)-101st(1990) Congress
- Print-Reference (1st floor) (KF42.2)
- HeinOnline

3. Sources of Compiled Legislative Histories

by Nancy P. Johnson

- Resources for compiled histories
 - Looseleaf updated annually
 - Listed by Public Law Number, Stat #
 - PL 107-56
 - Listed Alphabetically
 - USA Patriot Act
- Print –Reference (1st floor) KF42.2 .J63
- HeinOnline

4. Hein Online

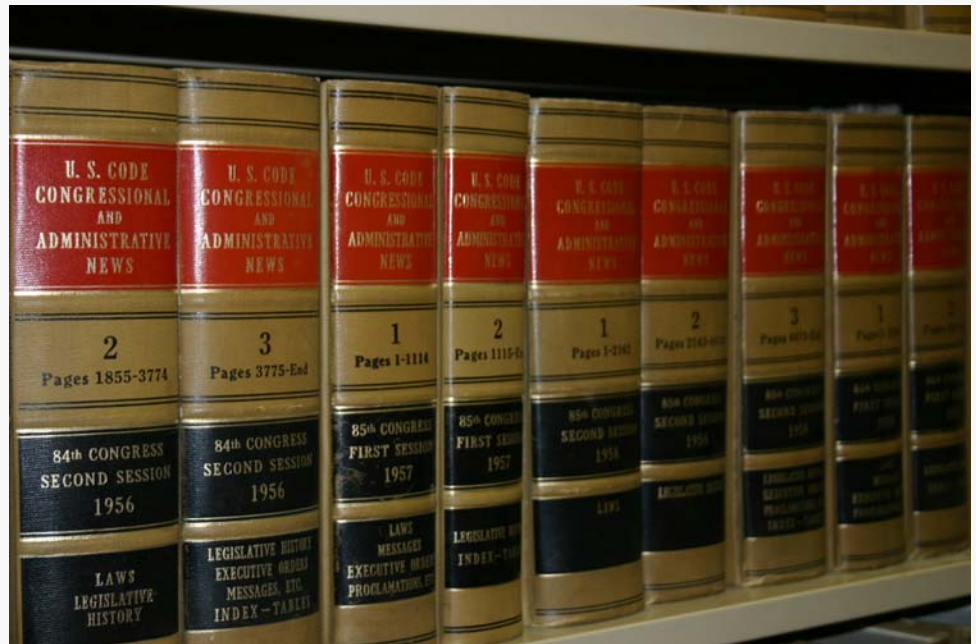
- *Sources of Compiled Legislative History*
- [*U.S. Federal Legislative History Title Collection*](#)
 - By Title
 - USA Patriot Act
 - Full-text of documents

5. United States Code Congressional & Administrative News (USCCAN)

- Print
 - 1st floor
 - Selected committee reports
 - CR references
 - Search the legislative history volume for a particular year (1948-present)
 - Know Public Law Number
 - USA Patriot Act of 2001: P.L. 107-56
- Westlaw

USCCAN

- U.S.C.A.
 - References USCCAN in Historical & Statutory Notes



6. Congressional Information Service (CIS)

- Print
- Online

CIS Print



- 1st floor (next to Statutes at Large)
- Legislative history volumes by year
 - 1970 →
 - Find by Public Law number
 - Lists documents with summaries
 - Citations by year and microfiche number
 - Cites to the Congressional Record

CIS Online: [LexisNexis Congressional](#)

- Index with abstracts--1970-present
- Full-text coverage varies
 - Congressional Documents
 - Advanced Search
 - Keyword
 - » [Limit by type of document](#), e.g., Legislative Histories
 - Search by Number
 - » [Legislative Histories](#)
 - » Enacted bill, Statute at Large, Public Law number

CIS Online

- Legislative Histories [Search](#)
 - Keyword
 - Restrict by Congress
 - Get a Document
 - Enacted Bill or Public Law number
 - Links to Abstracts of documents
 - Beginning to link to full-text of documents
 - If not, try document search by number
 - Text of Congressional Record-1985 forward

7. Thomas

- Bill Summaries
- Congressional Actions
- Beginning to link to Reports, CR, Votes
 - Patriot Act Reauthorization: [P.L. 109-177](#)

8. Westlaw & LexisNexis

- Databases & Compiled Histories,
Etc.....

Locate Legislative History Documents

Document	Print	Electronic
Bills	CIS microform	Thomas, GPO Access, LexisNexis Congressional, Westlaw, & LexisNexis
Committee Hearings	CIS microform	GPO Access, LexisNexis Congressional, Westlaw, & LexisNexis
Committee Reports, Documents & Prints	CIS microform USCCAN -1948--selected reports	Thomas, GPO Access, LexisNexis Congressional, Westlaw, & LexisNexis
House & Senate Debates	Congressional Record	Thomas, GPO Access, LexisNexis Congressional, Westlaw, & LexisNexis

SC Legislative History

- Acts & Joint Resolutions

- Print

- 1st floor microform & books-1776 forward

- Online

- Full text since 1980---www.scstatehouse.net
 - Lists Congressional Actions and date signed by Governor
 - Beginning to link to House & Senate Journals
 - But no published Congressional Record or committee hearing transcripts or reports

- Various versions of statutes

- State Legislative History Research Guides on the Web: www.law.indiana.edu/library/services/sta_leg.shtml