

# U.S. Statutes At Large: Documents and Information Included

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**Declaration of Independence, The Constitution and Its Amendments:** Volumes 1, 18 and 44 contain these documents. Amendments to the Constitution are also included as they become ratified

**Public Laws and Public Resolutions:** Chronologically arranged by session (one statute for each session) with public acts and joint resolutions arranged numerically by chapter and by public law number after 1956 in chronological order. Resolutions separated from acts until v. 39 (1915-1916). A volume of the Statutes covered one whole congress, not session, from v. 13 - 49 (1863-1936).

**Private Laws and Private Resolutions:** Chronologically arranged by session (one statute for each session) with private acts and private joint resolutions arranged numerically by chapter and by private law number after 1956 in chronological order. Few private laws are enacted today.

**Concurrent Resolutions:** These resolutions, which are approved by the House and Senate, but not the President, first appear in the Statutes in v. 28 (1893-1895).

**Reorganization Plans:** Pursuant to the Reorganization Acts of 1945 and 1949 and Chap. 9 of Title 5 of the U.S. Code, these executive agency/department reorganization plans were submitted as binding by the President to the House and Senate from 1946 through 1979.

**Presidential Proclamations:** These proclamations, now largely ceremonial, unlike Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, have been published in the Statutes since v. 9 (1845) Not included (or very few) are executive orders, executive agreements, and presidential recommendations & determinations.

**Indian Treaties:** Vol. 7 contained treaties between the United States and Indian tribes from 1778-1842. Subsequent volumes, up to v. 18, included such treaties as they occurred. After March 3, 1871 no other Indian tribe is to be recognized for treaty purposes per Act of March 3, 1871, 16 Stat. 566 (25 USC §71).

**Foreign Treaties:** Vol. 8 of the Little & Brown edition contained treaties between the U.S. and foreign nations from 1776-1845. Subsequent treaties were published in the Statutes as they occurred until 1950.

**Revised Statutes of the United States:** This subject compilation of all general and permanent laws of the U.S. as of December 1, 1873 was enacted as positive law and published as part I of volume 18 of the Statutes. A revised and updated edition eff. to Jan. 1, 1878 was also issued as a replacement volume.

**Code of Laws of the United States:** This first edition of the *U.S. Code*, encompassing the general and permanent laws of Congress, was published as "prima facie" law in part 1, v. 44 (1925-1927) of the Statutes, but no prior laws were repealed and it is rebuttable by contrary evidence in the statutes.

**Indices:** Starting with v. 5, each volume contains a subject index. With v. 65 (1951) an individual index began to be issued and starting with v. 105 (1991) a popular name index began to be issued.

**Lists:** List of public and private laws and resolutions with page numbers have been in each volume.

**Notes:** Vols.1-6 (1789-1845) contain margin notes on subsequent history of those acts. The *Revised Statutes* and the *Code of Laws* contain derivation history for each provision. Most volumes, until recent decades, have many subject matter and statute cite margin notes. Since 1926 most volumes contain margin notes with corresponding cites to the Code. Corresponding bill numbers were added in the margin at the beginning of each law with v. 33 (1903-05) and legislative history notes following the text of each were added with v. 89 (1975). "Unique" public law numbers were assigned to each law with v. 35 (1907-1909), but did not become official citations to laws until v. 71 (1957).