

# Electronic Sources for Federal Legislative History Documents With Years/Congresses Available

By Richard J. McKinney, Assistant Law Librarian, Federal Reserve Board; last updated in Nov. 2006 - LLSDC.org/Sourcebook/  
(Note: in each listing group non-fee based sources precede those that are *fee based in italic*)

## **Legislative History Electronic Compilations** (selected committee reports & other related documents)

- LLSDC.org/sourcebook/ - links to electronic histories, practitioner's guide to compiling, other docs
- THOMAS – has bill histories (from 1973) w links to related bills (1989), repts (1995), CR p. (2001)
- Various gov'n't (DoJ, DoC), *commercial & non-profit* electronic collections of individual histories
- Westlaw - has a *linked legis. history Web site* (<http://integrationsolutions.westlaw.com/gov/leghist/>)
- Westlaw - has *linked legis. history docs to public law cites (PL 93-259, etc.) from 1974 to present*
- Westlaw - has *LH (selectd USCCAN cmte repts 1948+); TELECOM-LH & others histories via A&P*
- LexisNexis - has *TAXLH (1954+), Appropriations (1992+), GLBLH (1999) & other leg. histories*
- LexisNexis - has *CIS leg. histories (CISLH -1970+ with links to abstracts of hearings/reports 84+, to C.R. pages 1985+, to bill texts 1989+, and to committee reports 1990+)*
- HeinOnline.org – has *selected digital published histories; soon to add Covington & Burling's hist's*

## **Popular Name or Public Law Number Index** (to find the law/bill to research)

- GPO Access - has name & PL # search capability by congress from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong.)
- THOMAS - has public law number table from 1973 (93<sup>rd</sup>. Cong.) with links to bill history
- THOMAS - has word/phrase searching in its bill status/summary section by congress from 1973
- Law Revision Counsel (<http://uscode.house.gov/>) - Search - "Jones Act" AND "Popular Names"
- Cornell LII (<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/topn/>) - has popular name index - links to USC
- Findlaw (<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cascode/uscodes/popularnames/>) - has index (a bit dated)
- Westlaw - has *find US legislation by cite capability from 1973 & popular name index (USCA-POP)*
- LexisNexis *find law by cite 1789+ as in "79 pl 234" or "60 stat 327" & pop name index (USNAME)*
- HeinOnline.org - *Legislative Reference Checklist: Key to Leg. Histories from 1789-1903 (Bill #s)*

## **U.S. Code** (has brief history of amdts after each section of the Code to discern which law to research)

- LLSDC.org/sourcebook/ - has USC & US Statutes history/explanations & USC tables
- GPO Access - has USC 2000 and 1994 editions with annual cum. supplements (text, not PDF)
- Law Revision Counsel (<http://uscode.house.gov/>) - has downloadable chapters & cur. update tables
- Cornell's LII (<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>) - has USC with direct linking to sections
- Findlaw (<http://www.findlaw.com/cascode/uscodes/>) - has USC with direct linking to sections
- Westlaw - *updated USCA & back years from 1990 (USCA90, USCA02) & by date range 1996+*
- LexisNexis - *has updated USCS and back years from 1992 (US1992, US1994, US2002, etc.)*
- *LoisLaw.com, TheLaw.net, PotomacPub.com, & VersusLaw.com have current USC*

## **Bill/Public Law Chronologies & Brief Summaries**

- GPO Access - has history of bills & resolutions from 1983 with dates to page numbers from 1993
- THOMAS - has bill status & summaries from 1973 with links to bill text from 1989 (101<sup>st</sup> Cong.)
- LLSDC.org/sourcebook/ - has current status table on selected legis. topics from 1999 (106<sup>th</sup> Cng)
- GovTrak.us - traks legislation, votes, and campaign contributions by selected subjects
- Westlaw - has *US-BILLTRK and BILLTRK-OLD (1991+) no links or C.R. page #s - via StateNet*
- LexisNexis - has *BLTRCK, BLT105, etc. (1989+) w links to CR 1991+, reports 1995+; summaries*
- CQ.com - has *Bill Track with links to C.R. pages & reports from 1995; CQ Archives from 1985*
- StateNet.com - has *U.S. bill chronologies from 1991 (102<sup>nd</sup> Cong.; no CR pages, no links)*
- GalleryWatch.com & TheLaw.net - *bill chronologies from 1999; PotomacPub.com from 2005*

- *LLMC.com - Digest of Public General Bills by CRS, 1936-1990, precedes THOMAS database*

### **Bill/Public Law Texts**

- GPO Access - has full text of bills in all versions from 1993 (103<sup>rd</sup> Cong.; text & PDF)
- GPO Access - has full text of all public laws/statutes from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong.; text & PDF)
- THOMAS - has full text of bills in all versions, including enrolled versions, from 1989 (101<sup>st</sup> Cong.)
- Library of Congress (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/>) - bills & statutes 1789-1873
- *Westlaw - has PDF text of U.S. Statutes At Large (1789-1972) - premium service*
- *Westlaw - has full text of public laws from 1973 (93<sup>rd</sup> Cong. - USCCAN-PL)*
- *Westlaw - has full text of bills in all versions from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong. - CONG-BILLTXT104, etc.)*
- *LexisNexis - has PDF texts (not searchable, but can bring up by cite) of U.S. Statutes (1789-present)*
- *LexisNexis - has full text of all bill versions from 1989 (101<sup>st</sup> Cong. - BLTEXT, BLT101, BLT107..)*
- *LexisNexis - has U.S. public laws from 1988 (100<sup>th</sup> Cong. - PUBLAW)*
- *HeinOnline.org - has searchable Statutes at Large in PDF from 1789 to near present*
- *LLMC.com - has digital U.S. Statutes At Large by vol. number (1-115; 1789-2001)*
- *PotomacPub.com - has Statutes At Large in PDF from 1789 to present (also via LexisNexis)*
- *CQ.com - has bill texts of all versions from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong.) & archives from 1987 (100<sup>th</sup> Cong.)*
- *GalleryWatch.com and TheLaw.net - have bill texts in all versions from 1997 & 1999 respectively*

### **Congressional Committee Reports** (conference and standing committees)

- GPO Access - has all congressional committee reports from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong.; in text & PDF)
- THOMAS - has all congressional committee reports from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong. - in html)
- Lib.of Cong. (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html>) - selectd Serial Set repts 1817-1917
- LLSDC.org/sourcebook/ - has Schedule of Vols. of U.S. Serial Set - 1970+ (to locate report in Set)
- *Westlaw - has all committee reports from 1990 (LH); selected ones related to public laws from 1948*
- *LexisNexis - has all committee reports from 1990 (CMTRPT)*
- *LexisNexis - has CIS abstracts of all reports (CISINX 1970+) & also those before 1974 (CISHST)*
- *LexisNexis - has digitized most of the U.S. Serial Set (1789-1969) which includes cmte reports*
- *Readex.com - has begun digitization of U.S. Serial Set (1789-1980) which includes cmte reports*
- *CQ.com - has committee reports from 1995 and in CQ Archives from 1989-1994*
- *GalleryWatch.com and TheLaw.net have committee reports from 1997 and 1999 respectively*

### **Congressional Record** (bill actions, votes, floor debate, remarks, daily digest of floor & cmte actions)

- GPO Access - has full text from 1994; in PDF from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong. forward, daily edition)
- GPO Access - has bound Cong. Record for 1999 & 2000 (other bound CR page cites must research)
- GPO Access - has Congressional Record Index from 1983 (98<sup>th</sup> Cong.) with dates from 1993
- THOMAS - has full text from 1989 in html (101<sup>st</sup> Cong. forward; daily edition only)
- Library of Cong. (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>) - has pre CR (1789-1874)
- LLSDC.org/sourcebook/ - has an overview & session table with dates, Record vol. #s & notations
- *Westlaw - has full text of daily edition from 1985 (CR - 99<sup>th</sup> Cong. forward)*
- *LexisNexis - has full text of daily ed. 1985+ (RECORD, DIGEST, SENATE, 99TH, 106TH, etc.)*
- *CQ.com - has full text of daily ed. from 1995; CQ Archives from 1987 (100<sup>th</sup> Cong. forward)*
- *GalleryWatch.com - has full text of daily edition from 1999 (CR Search)*
- *LLMC.com - bound Cong. Record by vol. # (136-147; 1990-2001) - plans to digitize more*

### **Congressional Committee Hearings** (from House and Senate standing committees)

- GPO Access - has published hearings in PDF from most committees, some as early as 1997 (105<sup>th</sup>)
- House.gov - Committee pages have most all prepared testimony, some as early as 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cng.)
- Senate.gov - Committee pages have most all prepared testimony, some as early as 1997 (105<sup>th</sup> Cng.)

- House/Senate cmte pages may have only current cong. or only full cmte hrngs, some have transcripts
- CapitolHearings.org - live audio feed of current Senate hearings (free)
- *FNSg.com* - has most all prepared statements and selected transcripts of testimony from 1993
- *CQ.com* (formerly *FDCH.com*) - has most all prepared statements and selected trans. from 1995
- *Westlaw* - has most prepared statements from 1996 & selected transcripts from 1994 (via *CQ Trans*)
- *LexisNexis* - most prepared statements from 1993 & selected transcripts from 1988 (*FNS & CQ*)
- *LexisNexis* - has *CIS* abstracts of all hearings (*CISINX* 1970+) & also those before 1970 (*CISHST*)
- *Factiva* - has most all prepared statements and selected transcripts from 1995 (via *CQ Transcripts*)
- *GalleryWatch.com* - has most all prepared statements & selected transcripts from 2000 (via *FNS*)
- *BNA.com* - has articles on most hearings in various topical newsletters (also on *Lexis & Westlaw*)
- *C-SpanArchives.org* - has audio & video coverage of most congressional hearings from 1987
- *Hearings.com* - audio archives of most congressional hearings from Feb. 2000 to Feb. 2002

**Presidential Signing Statements** (found in the Weekly Comp. of Pres. Docs & Public Papers of Pres.)

- GPO Access - has Weekly Compilation from 1993 & Public Papers of Pres from 1992 (text & PDF)
- *Westlaw* has *WCPD* from 1995, *PRES-DAILY* from 1993, and *USCCAN-MSG* from 1986
- *LexisNexis* has *Public Papers of the President (PRESDC)* from March 1979
- *HeinOnline.org* - has *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Docs in PDF* (1965 to near current)

**Congressional Committee Markup Summaries and Amendments** (amendment votes in committee)

- House & Senate Committee Reports - sometimes inserted into text of reports; see above sources
- House.gov & Senate.gov Committee Web Pages - sometimes placed on committee Web sites
- *CQ.com* - has most all cmte markup summaries from 1989; also has text of cmte amdts from 2005
- *NationalJournal.com* - has most all committee markups summaries from September 1999
- *GalleryWatch.com* - has *Natl Journal* markup summaries (from 1999) & markup amdts 2003+
- *BNA.com* - has articles on committee markups in various newsletters (also on *Lexis & Westlaw*)

**Congressional Committee Prints** (studies/compilations; also the name for bill drafts before markup)

- GPO Access - has prints of most committees from 1997 (105<sup>th</sup> Cong.)
- House.gov & Senate.gov Committee Web pages - have selected cmte prints from 1997 (105<sup>th</sup> Cng)
- *LexisNexis* - has many committee prints from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong.)

**Congressional Documents** (generally communications from the President - treaties, vetoes, etc.)

- GPO Access - has the numbered document series from 1995 (104<sup>th</sup> Cong.) for most docs
- *LexisNexis* - numbered document series (*HSDOCS*) from 1995 & *US Serial Set docs* (1789-1969)
- *Readex.com* - has begun digitization of *U.S. Serial Set* (1789-1980) which includes *H & S docs*

**Related Studies, Reports, Articles** (from GAO, CBO, OMB, CRS, White Hse, agencies, news, etc.)

- GPO Access - has GAO reports from 1995 (in text and PDF) & U.S. Budget from 1997
- GAO.gov - has Government Accountability Office reports from 1970 (in PDF with html abstract)
- CBO.gov - has Congressional Budget Office leg. cost estimates & other studies/reports from 1981
- OMB.gov - has recent statements of admin. policy, US Budget material, circulars, etc.
- *LLSDC.org/sourcebook/* - has links to most all Cong. Research Service report sites on the Internet
- *PennyHill.com* - has abstracts of all CRS reports from 1995 (*fee if requesting document*)
- Various agency & commission Web sites, law firm analyses (use search engines)
- *GalleryWatch.com* has recent CRS reports from 2004 and selected agency repts & lobbyist letters
- *Westlaw & Lexis/Nexis* - have GAO reports from 1994; also have news searches
- *CQ.com, BNA.com, others* - usually have related articles in *Weekly Report* and newsletters