



RESEARCH GUIDE

Legislative History: United States



For access to the Web-based guide *Resources for Law* connect to:

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/bysubject/LawMenu.htm>



For access to UConn Libraries Online Reference Books (eBooks) in Law connect to:

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/refbooks.html>

Encyclopedias

Encyclopedia of Democracy 4 vols.
Ref. JC 423 E53 1995

Encyclopedia of the American Legislative System 3 vols.
Ref. JF 501 E53 1994

Encyclopedia of the United States Congress 2 vols.
Ref. JK 1067 E63 1995

Sources for Legislative History

United States Code, Congressional and Administrative News

Text and legislative histories of laws enacted during each session of Congress. Chronological order.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
- Print: Level 2S / KF 48 W45 Annual 1964+

CIS Annual (Congressional Information Services Annual)

Lists Congressional publications, including hearings, committee prints and committee reports, but excludes *Congressional Record*.

Provides SuDoc numbers. In 3 volumes: index, abstracts and legislative histories.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/legislative.html>
- Print: Ref. KF 49 C62 Annual 1970+

Congressional Index 1947-1996

Lists bills pending and passed and gives current status of all proposed legislation.

Includes information on voting records, assignment of bills to committees, committee membership.

Indexes located in Senate volume.

- Print: Level 2S / KF 49 C6

Congressional Quarterly Almanac 1945+

Analysis of legislative action during one session of Congress.

Includes narrative legislative histories of major laws.

- Print: Current 5 years / Ref. JK 1 C153; Older volumes / Level 2S / JK 1 C153

Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report

Weekly analysis of events in Congress. Includes some voting records and a "status of current legislation" section.

- Online: CQ Library 1983+
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> (UConn Libraries homepage) → All Databases → By Database Name → CQ Electronic Library

The CQ Researcher

Published 48 times per year, each report provides background on a current topic of widespread interest. The issues treated often involve legislative discussion or action. Designed as a starting place for research, the reports define the issues and include a chronology and bibliographies.

- Online: **CQ Electronic Library** 1991+
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> (**UConn Libraries homepage**) → **All Databases** → **By Database Name** → **CQ Electronic Library**
- Print: *The CQ Researcher* 1992-2004/ **Level 2S / H 35 E35**
Older volumes: **Level 2S / H 35 E35** 1926+ (former title: *Editorial Research Reports*)

Bills and Bill Tracking

History of Bills – GPO Access

The *History of Bills* lists legislative actions on bills that are reported in the Congressional Record. It is part of the print Congressional Record Index, which is published biweekly by the Joint Committee on Printing when Congress is in session, but is maintained as a separate application on *GPO Access*.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
Select: **Under GPO Access Resources by Branch** → **Legislative Resources**
Click: **Congressional Bills**
In left frame under **RELATED RESOURCES**
Click: **History of Bills**

or <http://thomas.loc.gov>
In left frame, click **Bills, Resolutions**
Click: **Search Bill Summary & Status**
In top menu, **Select Congress:**, click choice

Bills

Text of proposed laws.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
Under **GPO Access Resources by Branch** → **Legislative Resources**
Click: **Congressional Bills**

or <http://thomas.loc.gov>
In left frame, click **Bills, Resolutions**
Click: **Search Bill Summary & Status** or **Search Bill Text**

- **Babidge Federal Documents Microfiche-Level B**
1967 (90th Congress)+ in microfiche / filed under **U.S. SuDoc number Y 1.4/**

Cumulative Finding Aid, House And Senate Bills

Gives reference numbers for microfiche collection of House and Senate Bills and Resolutions.

- Print: **Babidge Federal Documents-Level B** / filed under **U.S. SuDoc number GP3.28:**

Documents Relating to Proposed Laws

Hearings

Transcripts of testimony by expert witnesses before a Congressional committee.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
Under **Legislative Resources**, choose **View all** → **Congressional Hearings** (1997-1998+)
- Print: **Y4** 1969+ / **Babidge Federal Documents-Level B**
Exception: Appropriations Committee hearings 1980, 96th Congress+ are in microfiche / filed under **U.S. SuDoc number Y4.Ap6/1, Y4.Ap6/2, Babidge Federal Documents Microfiche-Level B**
- Microfiche: 1869 (41st Congress) – 1965 (69th Congress) filed under *Congressional Hearings*, alphabetically by collection title / **Babidge Federal Documents Microfiche-Level B**,

For pre-1976 document references use the *Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications* / **Babidge Federal Documents Reading Room-Level B / J 83 M 66**

House and Senate Reports and Documents

Committee reports explaining why a bill should be approved or not.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
or <http://thomas.loc.gov> (For 104th congress, 1995+)
- **Babidge Federal Documents Microfiche-Level B**
1980 (96th Congress)+ in microfiche, filed under **U.S. SuDoc number Y 1.1/**
- Print: Pre-1980, *Serial Set*, **Dodd Periodical** (Use *CIS U.S. Serial Set Index*, **Babidge Ref. J 74 C66 1975**)

Congressional Record

Debate and votes on the floor of both the House and Senate.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
Under **GPO Access Resources by Branch** → **Legislative Resources**
Click: **Congressional Record**

or <http://thomas.loc.gov>
Under *Congressional Record*, click **Text Search 101st - 108th**
- **Babidge Federal Documents Microfiche-Level B**
1982-1993 in microfiche, filed under **U.S. SuDoc number X/1.1/A:**
- Print: 1873-1873 **Dodd Periodical**, filed under **U.S. SuDoc number X/**

Congressional Record Index 1983+

Index to the *Congressional Record*.

- Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
Under **GPO Access Resources by Branch** → **Legislative Resources**
Click: **Congressional Record**
In left frame under **RELATED RESOURCES**
Click: **Congressional Record Index**

or <http://thomas.loc.gov>
Under *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*, click **Index 104th - 108th**

Law Statutes and Codes

Statutes at Large (Public Laws)

Texts of laws enacted during each session of Congress in chronological order.

Print: **Ref. KF 50 U5**

United States Code

All laws in force at time of printing grouped into fifty subject-based titles.

Revised every six years. Updated by annual supplements reflecting changes.

- Online: • **LexisNexis Legal**
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> (UConn Libraries homepage) → **All Databases** → **By Database Name** →
LexisNexis Legal
Under **Legal Searches**
Select: **Federal & State Codes**
- <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>
Under **GPO Access Resources by Branch** → **Legislative Resources**
Click: **United States Code**
 - CD-ROM: 1995-1999, 2001-2004 **Babidge Federal Documents-Level B / U.S. SuDoc number Y 1.2/5-2:**

United States Code Annotated

Same as *U.S. Code* but with additional commentary and citations to relevant court cases. Updated by pocket parts.

Level A / KF 62 1927 W45

Administrative Regulations

Code of Federal Regulations

Compilation of regulations issued by federal agencies grouped according to subject. Revised at regular intervals.

Online • *LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Codes & Regulations**, select **Federal Regulation**

• <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>

Under *GPO Access Resources by Branch* → **Executive Resources**

Click: **Code of Federal Regulations**

• Print: **Ref. KF 70 A3** Current edition only

Federal Register

Proposed and final regulations first appear in the *Federal Register* before incorporated into the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Issued daily. Updates the Code of Federal Regulations.

Online: • *LexisNexis Academic*

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → LexisNexis Academic

Select: **Legal Research**

Under **Codes & Regulations**, select **Federal Regulations**

• <http://www.gpoaccess.gov> 1994+

Under *GPO Access Resources by Branch* → **Executive Resources**

Click: **Federal Register**

• **Babbidge Research Microfilm (Library Use Only)-Level 3**

1936-1982 in microfilm, shelved as *Federal Register*

• **Babbidge Federal Documents Microfiche-Level B**

1983+ in microfiche, filed under **U.S. SuDoc number AE 2.106:**

Other Reference Sources

Thomas Legislative Information on the Internet

Online: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Legislative Information on the Internet. Includes access to: Bill Tracking, 1993+ as well as Bill Summary and Status & Public Laws, 1973-present; Roll Call Votes; Congressional Record, 1989-present; and Congressional Committee reports, 1995-present.

Shepard's Acts and Cases By Popular Names: Federal and State

Provides statutory and code citations for federal and state laws and cases by popular names.

Ref. Desk / Ref. KF 90 S52.

GPO Access 1971+

Text of Congressional Record, bills and bill tracking, Federal Register, U.S. Code, presidential documents, and more.

Online: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov>

Print: For pre-1971 documents from 1895+ see:

Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications

Babbidge Federal Documents Reading Room-Level B / J 83 M66