

# Cerritos College Library

In the Wilford Michael Library & Learning Resource Center

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## RESEARCHING FEDERAL LEGISLATION

**Bills** are proposed pieces of legislation introduced by either the House of Representatives or the Senate. Your search for information on bills can include authoritative Internet resources and periodical databases.

### U.S. Government Web Sites

The United States government provides much information on current, proposed, and past Federal legislation. A few useful government sites are listed here.

#### **Thomas**

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

**Bill Text** (101st Congress (1989)-present). This database is updated daily.

Keyword searching can be used to locate proposed legislation. Limiting options include specifying which Chamber the bill was introduced, limiting to bills that have received floor action or have been enrolled to the President, and the timeframe in which the bill was introduced. A search can also be done by bill or resolution number. Users also have the option of browsing all introduced legislation in a Congress. This database does not allow users to search more than one Congress at a time.

#### **GPO Access**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/bills/index.html>

**Congressional Bills** (103rd Congress (1993)-present). This database is updated daily.

The text of bills and resolutions is available in PDF format. Unlike Thomas, GPO Access allows users to search multiple Congresses via keyword searching. Researchers are also able to browse introduced legislation for each Congress.

#### **Congressional Record**

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html>

The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. *GPO Access* contains Congressional Record volumes from 140 (1994) to the present. At the back of each daily issue is the "Daily Digest," which summarizes the day's floor and committee activities.

#### **U.S. House of Representatives Home Page**

<http://www.house.gov>

#### **U.S. Senate Home Page**

<http://www.senate.gov>

## RESEARCHING FEDERAL LEGISLATION

### Tracking Current Federal Legislation and Regulations: A Guide to Basic Sources

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/98-461.pdf>

This guide was created by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to introduce researchers to some sources that are useful in obtaining background information or specific facts on the status of federal legislative or regulatory initiatives.

### Other Guides to Tracking Federal Legislation

#### **Federal Bills and Proposed Legislation**

<http://www.govtrack.us/>

#### **Current Federal Legislation**

<http://www.politicsol.com/legislation/>

#### **Office of the Law Revision Council**

Contains full text of the *United States Code*

<http://uscode.house.gov/>

#### **Cornell Law School Website**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>

### Newspaper and Magazine Articles

Use one of the online databases listed below to find articles and opinion pieces written about the federal legislation you are researching. These databases usually provide full-text articles on almost every topic. They are available via the **Library Home Page**.

For remote access to the library databases, login to the **Library** using your Cerritos College ID number.

- Select **NewsBank** or **ProQuest Newspapers** for newspaper articles
- Select **EBSCOHost** for magazine and journal articles

In **EBSCOHost**, **NewsBank**, and **ProQuest Newspapers**:

You can focus your search results on a current legislative topic by adding the term "federal legislation."

#### **Examples:**

Wildlife conservation and federal legislation

Homeland security and federal legislation

Gasoline prices and federal legislation