



Research Guide to LEXISNEXIS CONGRESSIONAL™

WHAT IS IT?

Lexis-Nexis *Congressional*, a product of LexisNexis and Congressional Information Service Inc. (CIS), provides comprehensive access to information by and about the United States Congress, including legislative history of public laws, full-text access to the *U.S. Serial Set*, select *Congressional Hearings* and *American State Papers* (1789-1969). Updated daily, LN *Congressional's* coverage extends back to 1789, but varies depending on the type of information requested. The publications can be retrieved either directly using the full-text search options, or by using the CIS indexes and abstracts which contain links to the text. LN *Congressional Universe*:

- Full text of the *U.S. Serial Set*, 1789-1969.
- Full text of Congressional Hearings 1980-2003.
- Current news, facts and figures on “Hot bills” and Topics.
- Full text of congressional working papers and bills, hearings transcripts, testimony, Committee reports, and public laws.
- Official Publications, including the *Federal Register*, the *Congressional Record*, *Congress Daily*, the *Code of Federal Regulation* and the *U.S. Code*.
- Member biographies, committee assignments, voting records, and financial data.
- Bill tracking and accompanying documents.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT IT?

- LN *Congressional* can be accessed from the DuFour Law Library home page (<http://law.edu/library/library.shtm>).
- LN *Congressional* DOES NOT provide access to: *Congressional Quarterly*, Committee Markups, Committee Votes, CRS Reports, Floor Calendars, Lobby Groups, and Presidential Action. Many of these materials can be located by using other resources available in the Law Library.
- Full text documents in the *U.S. Serial Set* collection and select Hearings are available as pdf files.
- A number of Congressional documents are only available on microfiche in the 3rd floor Media Center of the DuFour Law Library. Photocopying facilities are available for microfiche materials.
- If you are unsure where to look for a particular document or how to research a topic in LN *Congressional* it can be useful to look at the *Site Map*. This page provides an outline of how materials in the database are organized. There is also a useful *Help* section containing information on how to research Congressional material and which documents are included in their coverage.

HOW DO I?

1. Find congressional publications on a specific topic?

Search the *Subject Index* of CIS using the term or terms that best describe your topic. Use the LN *Congressional* subject list to suggest appropriate terms or to verify that you are

using all of the appropriate synonyms. Older materials can be located using the *Historical Full Text* feature.

2. Find a bill?

If you are looking for a bill, search in the *Bills* section of *LN Congressional*, filling in the words or terms that apply to the bill. If you know the bill number, simply go to the *Bills By Number* section and fill in the number. Please note there may be a few days delay for a bill to be included in *LN Congressional* after it is introduced in Congress. This is due to the length of time taken by the Government Printing Office to print the bill.

3. Find where a bill is in the legislative process?

If you know the bill number, find the bill using the *Bill Tracking* or *Bill Tracking By Number* section. Be sure to limit by the correct Congress and the correct chamber of Congress.

4. Find a legislative history of a law?

There are two ways to find legislative histories in Congressional Universe:

- (a) If you know the subject matter of the law, fill in the *CIS Legislative History* form with the words describing the law. Take a look at the subject list to be sure you've covered all the possible terms.
- (b) If you know the public law, Statutes at Large or bill number, fill in the *Retrieve the Legislative History* form with the relevant information that you have.

5. Find information about a Senator or Representative?

If you need biographical information, addresses in home state and Washington DC, or committee assignments, go to the *Individual* search form and fill in the member's name. If you need to know how an individual has recently voted on major legislation, take a look at the *Key Votes* section. If you need to know how an individual voted on a particular bill from a previous Congressional session (back to the 100th Congress), go to the *Floor Votes* search form and enter the bill number.

6. Find out information about a committee in Congress?

Simply fill in the name of the committee in the entry box in the *Committee* section. If you are unsure of the committee's name, check the *List of Committees*.

7. Find debate on a bill or a topic?

Congressional debate is found in the *Congressional Record* within the *Publications* section. If you know the topic or bill number being debated, fill in that information in the entry box. If you are looking for a bill, remember to include the prefix S. or H.R. and the bill number. If you are searching for a bill number from the 105th Congress forward, there is a specific field that lets you search for a bill number. Example: bill# (S. 326).

8. Find a particular report or hearing?

If you already know the hearing or report number you can locate the document using the *CIS Document Number* search. If you know the title you can search for it using the *Title* section of the CIS index. Documents can also be located by entering the issuing committee or bibliographic information. Older documents contained in the *U.S. Serial Set* and select Hearings (1980-2003) are available full-text as pdf files.