

Search Strategies for www.congress.gov

A note about Congress.gov and its contents:

- Congress.gov is the official site for US federal legislative information, maintained by the Library of Congress. The site is designed to provide accurate, timely information for Members of Congress, legislative agencies, and the public using data from the Office of the Clerk of the US House of Representatives, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, the Government Printing Office, Congressional Budget Office, and the LOC's Congressional Research Service. Congress.gov is usually updated the morning after a session adjourns. (via [Congress.gov](#))
- Congress.gov is an update and continuation of THOMAS, which was created in 1995 (104th Congress). **Currently, records are only digitized back to the 93rd Congress (1973-75).** However, Congressional documents from the first 100 years of the U.S. Congress (1774-1875) can also be accessed through [Century of Lawmaking](#).
- Unlike LOC.gov, creating an account on Congress.gov will allow users to save searches and information.
- Remember LOC.gov legislation results will redirect to their corresponding Congress.gov result.

Navigating Congress.gov from the homepage:

You can search the Congress.gov website from the main page using **Search box** or browse using the **toolbar** above it. Searches default to the current Congress and format of legislation, but filters can be applied manually.

Search 

Share/Save 

Current Legislative Information 

Legislative History and Tools 

Navigation Toolbar 

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CONGRESS.GOV BETA

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Current Legislation Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care" Advanced | Tips

Most-Viewed Bills

S.1435 [111th] Human-Animal Hybrid Prohibition Act of 2009
S.2277 [113th] Russian Aggression Prevention Act of 2014
H.R.3979 [113th] Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014

Bill Searches and Lists

Introduced | Public Laws 113th Congress (2013-2014)
Active Legislation (Senate.gov Finding Aid)
Appropriations

Print | Subscribe | Share/Save | Give Feedback

Current Legislative Activities

113th Congress (2013-2014)

House of Representatives

Not in Session Video Archive

Next Meeting: June 23, 2014
Previous Meeting: June 20, 2014

[House Calendars](#)
[House Floor Activities](#)
[Roll Call Votes](#)
[Committee Hearings Video](#)
[Committee Hearings Schedule](#)

Senate

Not in Session Video Archive

Next Meeting: June 23, 2014
Previous Meeting: June 19, 2014

[Senate Calendar of Business](#)
[Executive Calendar \(PDF, 357KB\)](#)
[On the Senate Floor](#)
[Roll Call Votes](#)
[Committee Hearings Schedule](#)
[Nominations](#)

The Legislative Process

Nine videos explain each of the common legislative stages, and that the process by which a bill becomes law is rarely predictable.

One view of the legislative process:
Introduction & Referral of Bills
Committee Assignment & Consideration
Calendar & Scheduling
House Floor
Senate Floor
Executive Actions
Adoption of Conference Committee Report
Executive Business on the Senate

JPG (179KB) | PDF (530KB)

The U.S. Founding Documents

A gallery of study resources about significant primary source documents from American history.

Treaties

Search for treaties on the THOMAS site.

New on Congress.gov

Nominations, Accounts, Saved Searches – Congress.gov Continues to Grow

Frequently Asked Questions

About Congress.gov

Presented by the Library of Congress using data from the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and the Government Printing Office. Congress.gov will

Searching Congress.gov:

1. Type a search term in the **Search** box.
2. Select a **Format** from the drop down and click **GO**
3. Refine your results using the left column of the Search results page.
(Congress, Type, Status, Subject, Chamber, Committee, Sponsor, Cosponsor, and Party)

The sidebar on the right contains three main sections: 'Limit Your Search', 'Check all', and 'Congress'.
Under 'Limit Your Search':

- Legislation [3,272]
- Congressional Record [8,362]
- Committee Reports [339]
- Nominations [110]

Under 'Congress':

- 113 (2013-2014) [3,272]
- 112 (2011-2012) [3,652]

Show More >

Searching and understanding legislation results:

Search results are displayed in a list using the following format:

Type of document: RESOLUTION

Designation and Title: H.J.Res.80 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014

Sponsor: Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2] (Introduced 10/03/2013)

Committees: House - Appropriations

Latest Action: 10/17/2013 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 221.

Tracker: Introduced → Passed House → Passed Senate → To President → Became Law

Current Status and Action

Users can also search by legislation numbers, but must include the prefix and number (with or without spaces and periods and in upper or lowercase). Remember that: bills, resolutions, and amendments include an alphabetical prefix and number; committee reports include an alphabetical prefix, Congress number, and report number; public laws include an alphabetical prefix, Congress number, and law number.

Using quotation marks around words will help find an exact match. Whenever searching using multiple words, use boolean operators (AND, OR).

The proximity operator (~) can be used to find two or more words within a specified distance of each other. Enter your search terms enclosed in quotation marks, followed by ~ and a number, to indicate how many intervening words may occur between your search terms. For example, "john kennedy"~3

Don't forget documents can be browsed via the homepage (via subjects/policy area, statuses, etc.)!

For more help, visit: <https://beta.congress.gov/help/search-tips-overview/>

Understanding individual items:

The screenshot shows the details of the H.J.Res.80 bill. A red box highlights the title "H.J.Res.80 - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014". Another red box highlights the "JOINT RESOLUTION" status. A third red box highlights the "More on This Bill" section, which includes links to "Constitutional Authority Statement" and "CBO Cost Estimates". A fourth red box highlights the "Subject — Policy Area: Native Americans" and "View subjects >". A fifth red box highlights the navigation tabs at the bottom: Summary (2), Text (3), Actions (23), Titles (4), Amendments (1), Cosponsors (0), Committees (1), and Related Bills (1). A sixth red box highlights the "Summary: H.J.Res.80 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)" section. A seventh red box highlights the "Item Section Navigation" on the left.

Title

Overview

Subject and Links

Item Section Navigation

Summary: **H.J.Res.80 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)**

There are 2 summaries for this bill. Passed House without amendment (10/14/2013) Bill summaries are authored by CRS.

Shown Here: Passed House without amendment (10/14/2013)

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian **Education**, and Indian Health Service Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014 - Makes appropriations for FY2014 for

Educational Materials:

From the homepage (congress.gov), the section for Legislative history and tools contains many resources for teachers including:

US Founding Documents: A gallery that highlights resources designed to study select documents such as the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Federalist Papers. Also contains an annotated Constitution resource. (<https://beta.congress.gov/legislative-process>)

The Legislative Process: A section of nine videos and various images chronicling how a bill becomes a law. (<https://beta.congress.gov/founding-documents>)