

Federal Legislative History



Image from Architect of the Capitol

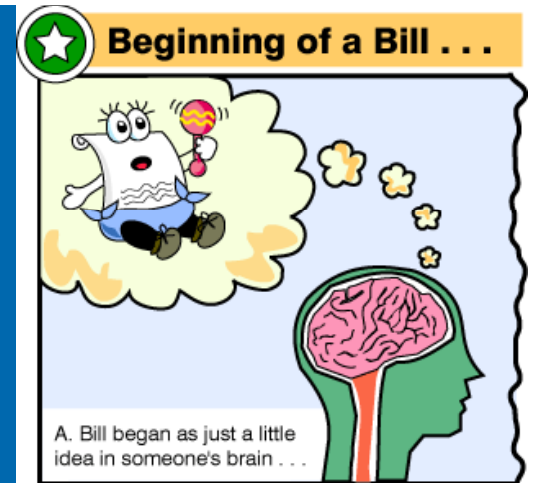
Federal Legislative History

- Why is legislative history important?
- When do you need to find it?



Documents

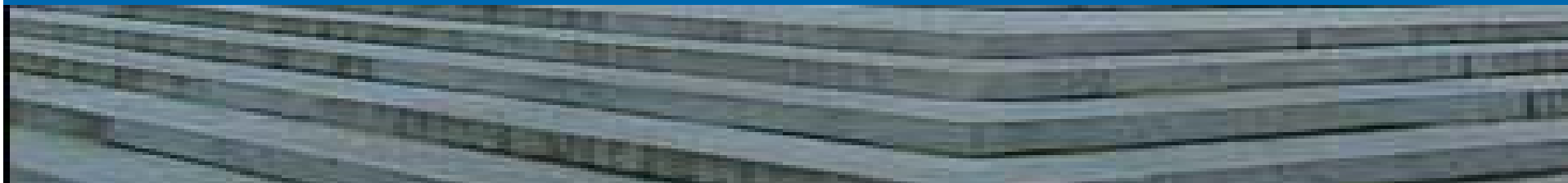
1. Bills
2. Committee Reports*
3. Committee Prints
4. House or Senate Documents
5. Hearings
6. Debates/Proceedings
7. Committee Mark-ups



Finding Legislative History

Step One

- Find the Public Law Number (P.L.) or Bill number for unenacted legislation.
- Bill number by subject, Congressional Index. (ex. H.R. 247, 109th Session)



History

P.L. or Pub. L. =
number assigned as
bill becomes law,
starts with number of
congress

Stat. (Statutes at
Large) = official
publication of the laws
of the United States

18 § 3

CRIMES Part I

§ 3. Accessory after the fact

Whoever, knowing that an offense against the United States has been committed, receives, relieves, comforts or assists the offender in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial or punishment, is an accessory after the fact.

Except as otherwise expressly provided by any Act of Congress, an accessory after the fact shall be imprisoned not more than one-half the maximum term of imprisonment or (notwithstanding section 3571) fined not more than one-half the maximum fine prescribed for the punishment of the principal, or both; or if the principal is punishable by life imprisonment or death, the accessory shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years.

(June 25, 1948, c. 645, 62 Stat. 684; Nov. 10, 1986, Pub.L. 99-646, § 43, 100 Stat. 3601; Nov. 29, 1990, Pub.L. 101-647, Title XXXV, § 3502, 104 Stat. 4921; Sept. 13, 1994, Pub.L. 103-322, Title XXXIII, §§ 330011(h), 330016(2)(A), 108 Stat. 2145, 2148.)



Popular Name Table

POPULAR NAME TABLE

1096

Fishery Conservation Amendments of 1990

Pub. L. 101-627, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4436 (Title 15, § 713e-3; Title 16, §§ 757d, 758e-5, 971, 971a, 971a note, 971b, 971b-1, 971d, 971b, 1371, 1373 note, 1385, 1801, 1801 note, 1802, 1802 note, 1811, 1812, 1812 note, 1821, 1822, 1822 note, 1824, 1825, 1825 note, 1826, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1854 note, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1882, 4004 note, 4005, 4005 note, 4006, 4008, 4103, 4107; Title 22, § 1977)

Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976

(See Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act)

Fishery Conservation Zone Transition Act

Pub. L. 95-6, Feb. 21, 1977, 91 Stat. 14 (Title 16, §§ 1801 note, 1823 notes, 1826)

Pub. L. 95-8, §§ 1, 2, Mar. 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 18 (Title 16, § 1823 note)

Pub. L. 95-73, July 26, 1977, 91 Stat. 283 (Title 16, § 1823 note)

Pub. L. 95-219, §§ 1, 2, Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1613 (Title 16, § 1823 note)

Pub. L. 95-314, July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 376 (Title 16, § 1823 note)

Pub. L. 98-44, Title 1, § 105, July 12, 1983, 97 Stat. 217 (Title 16, § 1823 note)

Pub. L. 98-364, Title 1, § 105, July 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 442 (Title 16, § 1823 note)

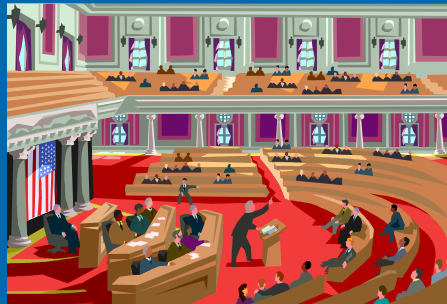
Step Two

- U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN)
 - The text of an Act
 - Major Legislative Action
- **Compiled Legislative Histories**
- No way out – do it yourself



Congressional Information Service (Lexis)

- In hard copy - CIS Index to Publications of the United States Congress, Microfiche set
- Congressional (LexisNexis)
- Old stuff (before 1970) the Serial Set (being added to Congressional)



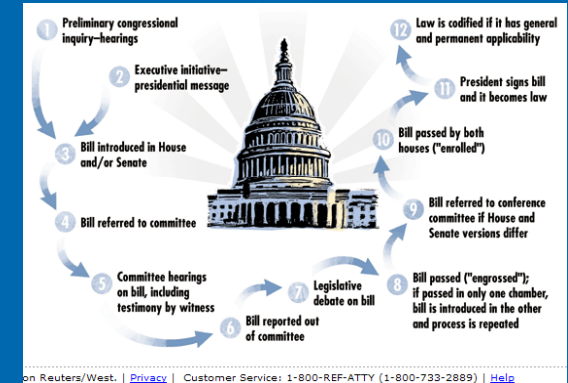
Thomas

- Coverage – 1973 to date
- Recent - includes reports, links to Congressional Record
- Other web sites – GPO Access, House or Senate and some Committees

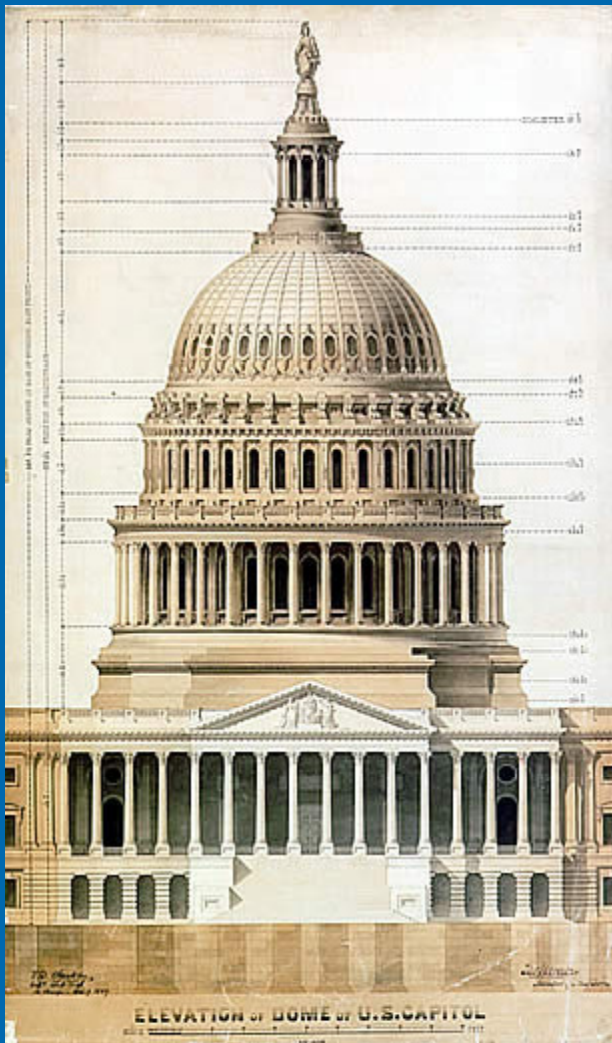


Westlaw

- USCCAN/GAO
- Federal Legislative History Tab
- Federal Material - Legislative History & Bill Tracking (mostly current)
- Check coverage dates



Lexis



- All Sources: Federal Legal - U.S. : Legislative Histories & Materials
- CIS index material also from 1970, others from 1990's